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Daily Report
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Cuba

Developments in German Democratic Republic Noted

Economic Reform Plan

FL0911191489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Socialist planning combined with the market is the conceptual basis of economic reforms presented by GDR leader Egon Krenz. The reform program, presented yesterday at the 10th plenum of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] Central Committee, was published today by the Berlin press and will be discussed by all GDR citizens.

One emergency measure cited by the document needed to stabilize the economic situation is the creation of a new strategy based on the combination of socialist planning and the market. Krenz indicated that close cooperation with the Soviet Union and other socialist states will be needed, above all, to fulfill economic tasks. The reform program also includes other spheres, especially the political one, in which the SED intends to fulfill its role as the guiding party of society.

The plenum announced today it will hold its fourth meeting next month.

Opening of Borders

FL1011134089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] The GDR Council of Ministers has decided to open all the borders of that East European nation so that people can travel abroad. The measure is valid until the adoption of a new law on this matter, which is currently being drafted. It was also reported in Berlin that the GDR parliament will discuss on 13 November the replacement of its entire presidium and the appointment of a new head of government.

The 10th plenum of the SED decided that the fourth SED conference will be held in mid-December to analyze the national situation. The SED will also discuss the changes pertaining to the composition of the Central Committee and the Revision Commission.

These agreements were adopted during the second day of the plenum where the participants are analyzing the report presented on 8 November by SED General Secretary Egon Krenz.

Bulgaria Elects New Leader To Carry Out Reforms

FL1011230489 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2033 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] The election of Petur Mladenov as new secretary general of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BKP] took place in Sofia today. This was the most outstanding result of a BKP Central Committee plenum. Mladenov, 53, member of the Politburo, replaced Todor Zhivkov, who asked to be released from the top BKP leadership post, which he had held since 1954. The plenum also agreed to recommend that the National Assembly approve Zhivkov's request to be relieved as chairman of Bulgaria's Council of State.

The BKP forum decision gives former Foreign Minister Mladenov the responsibility for directing substantial reforms in Bulgaria's political system.

Malmierca Meets With Officials in Albania

FL1011141389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca is visiting Albania at the invitation of his Albanian counterpart, Reis Malile, who received Malmierca at the Tirana airport.

Official talks began later at the Albanian Foreign Ministry headquarters where the participants analyzed bilateral relations. During the talks, Malile reiterated that the two countries, which are friends, are fighting for the same ideals of liberty and progress and for the defense of the victories attained by socialism.

Malmierca also met with the minister under the presidency of the Council of Ministers, Farudin Hoxha, and Foreign Trade Minister Shane Korbeci.

3 Cooperation Agreements Signed

FL1111021189 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Cuba and Albania have signed three important economic, cultural, and trade cooperation agreements and ratified their identical positions on the struggle for peace and mutual understanding.

The agreements were signed in Tirana, the Albanian capital, by Isidoro Malmierca and Reis Malile, foreign ministers of Cuba and Albania, respectively. The Cuban foreign minister held talks with members of the Council of Ministers, visited various institutions, and toured several cities in this European country.

During his 3d day in Albania, Malmierca invited his Albanian counterpart to visit our country on the occasion of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of relations between the two nations next year.

Castro Message Given to Premier

FL1111135489 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has sent a thank you message to the Albanian Government for its continuing support for our struggle and independence. The message was warmly welcomed by Adil Carcani, chairman of the Albanian Council of Ministers.

Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, who has been in Tirana—capital of Albania—for 3 days, was charged with conveying the thank you message from the president of the Councils of State and Ministers.

During their meeting, Malmierca and Carcani agreed on expressing their satisfaction over the fact that relations between Cuba and Albania are developing in every area and reaffirmed their desire to strengthen these ties on solid bases and common positions.

Malmierca and his Albanian counterpart, Reis Malile, signed agreements on economic cooperation, cultural exchange, and trade which reflect the bilateral contacts the two countries have maintained for nearly 3 decades.

Trade Documents Signed at International Fair

Agreement With Bulgaria

FL1011190489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] During the Seventh Havana International Fair, Cuba and the People's Republic of Bulgaria signed trade agreements in the chemical and food industries. This is the 5th time that Bulgaria has participated in the fair. Its exhibits cover more than 400 cubic meters and include displays of electronic equipment, programmable machinery, optical and laser technology, and consumer items.

Cuba is Bulgaria's third highest ranking trade partner, after the Soviet Union and the GDR.

Bulgaria is represented by eight firms in the Havana fair. The (Turbo) firm, which has historically traded with our country, has the largest display.

Pavilion representatives told the press that Bulgaria actively participates in programs to develop several Cuban industries, such as the sugar, nickel, and geological prospecting industries.

Agreement With Romania

FL1111034589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0302 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] A goods exchange protocol for 1990 was signed between Cuba and Romania during the Seventh Havana International Fair today. The talks were held in a cordial atmosphere and resulted in the exchange valued in about 260 million rubles. This represents a 3 percent increase over this year's levels.

The Socialist Republic of Romania will supply to our country transportation equipment, spare parts for the cement and oil industries, tires and inner tubes, leather goods, textiles, etc. Cuba will provide the sister nation with tiles, [word indistinct], citrus, tobacco, medicines, pharmaceutical products, alcoholic beverages, and electronic components.

CEMA Patent Bureau Meeting Ends in Havana

FL1111160589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] The second meeting of the CEMA Bureau for Patent and Inventions has concluded with the signing of a final protocol that envisages a plan to aid Cuba in its accelerated development through scientific and technical cooperation until 1995.

During the 3-day meeting, which was held in our capital, Cuba signed bilateral cooperation agreements concerning patents with the GDR, Mongolia, and the Soviet Union.

Radio, Television Organization Convenes

FL0911193689 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Eight socialist countries and Eurovision representatives are participating in the International Radio and Television Organization [OIRT] annual meeting. The main point of the agenda is how to handle musical authors on television to give continuity to the work the OIRT music group is carrying out and unite efforts among all television stations so that the work of musical authors satisfies the spiritual expectations of their respective peoples.

The opening remarks were made by Juan Hernandez, vice president of the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television. He noted the importance this exchange of experiences has for Cuba at a time in which Cuban television is undergoing a radical change in its organizational mechanisms and programming.

This OIRT meeting will continue in this capital until next Saturday.

Radio Comments on Sandinist-Contra Talks

FL1111192289 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Representatives of the Sandinist Government and anti-Sandinist groups have temporarily suspended the dialogue they started on 9 November at the United Nations. The only agreement they reached is that of resuming their talks on 13 November, this time at the OAS Headquarters in Washington.

Judging the situation from a realistic standpoint, one should refrain from harboring the illusion of a possible end to the Nicaraguan conflict. It is quite clear that what the United States is seeking is to make Nicaragua observe another cease-fire—perhaps sugarcoated with some minor agreements—but without running any risk of having to demobilize the contras.

Washington seeks to maintain the contras as a tool to exert pressure, which it will use depending on the outcome of the February election. Should the Sandinists win, it is most likely that the United States will refuse to recognize that the elections were clean and, using this pretext, it will resume its military aid to the contras to reactivate its war against Nicaragua.

It is quite clear that these negotiations are not being held with the contras, but with the U.S. Government. In the field of maneuvers, the Nicaraguan contras are just puppets whose strings are controlled by U.S. interests. There are no doubts about this. There are no doubts either that the United States is playing one of its last cards in Nicaragua, and it is beginning to be afraid. Sandinism is a real, visible political force in Nicaragua, while the opposition is not. Washington has begun to perceive this fact and has started a game of positions to gain time.

The reason the United States has not yet started to contend an alleged electoral sham is simply because this claim would be untenable. Former President James Carter himself stated in Nicaragua that conditions are appropriate to hold free elections. Thus, the U.S. Government seeks to disrupt the Nicaraguan electoral process and its major tool in this task is the contras. This is why we also believe that the contras will not be demobilized by the date set at the Tela summit, or after February.

Fernandez Meets Visiting Ecuadoran Official

FL1111153089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers and minister of education, has met in this capital with Mario Aleman, secretary general of the Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry.

During the meeting, they discussed topics dealing with education in their bilateral relations.

The Ecuadoran official was accompanied by Rear Admiral Gustavo Jarrin Ampudia, the Ecuadoran ambassador to Cuba; and by Carlos Zamora, director of the Cuban Foreign Ministry Latin America Department.

Machado Ventura Welcomes Internationalists Back

FL1011142389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Excerpt] More than 160 internationalist combatants returned to the fatherland last night from Angola. They were welcomed by Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba; Vice Admiral Aldo Santamaria Cuadrado for the Revolutionary Armed Forces; and Brigade General Alejandro Ronda Marrero for the Interior Ministry. [passage omitted]

Angolan Ambassador Gives News Conference

FL1011025089 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Mr Pablo de Castro, ambassador of the People's Republic of Angola in Cuba, gave a news conference today on the occasion of the upcoming 14th anniversary of the independence of that country, which will be celebrated next Saturday.

The Angolan diplomat recalled the difficult times his people went through, 14 years ago, when the bandits of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA], along with Zairian and South African forces, tried to prevent independence from being proclaimed. On the same subject, the diplomat expressed gratitude for Cuba's unselfish aid, and he recalled the heroic battles that Cubans and Angolans fought to finally break the Portuguese colonial yoke.

Pablo de Castro emphasized the current tasks of the Angolan Government, which are dedicated to national reconstruction and economic recovery due to the damage caused by war. In the same way, he spoke about the efforts of the government of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party to attain peace and UNITA's refusal to observe the Gbadolite peace agreements.

Risquet Receives New ANC Representative

FL1011161289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1330 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], has received the new official African National Congress [ANC] representative in our country, Comrade Kingsley Xuma.

During their fraternal meeting, Risquet and Xuma extensively analyzed the situation in the Republic of South Africa and the situation in the southern cone of Africa. The similarity of views between the PCC and the ANC was evident during the meeting between Risquet and the outstanding fighter against apartheid.

Rodriguez in India for South Commission Meeting

FL1111025089 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 2230 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has arrived in India. He will participate in the sixth meeting of the South Commission. The commission is composed of 27 prominent figures who will discuss the political, economic, and social situation of the Third World from their own point of view.

French Magazine: Ochoa Executed for Conspiracy

PA1111045289 Paris AFP in Spanish 1102 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Paris, 9 Nov (AFP)—An exclusive report that the French (democratic left) magazine GLOBE will publish tomorrow states that General Arnaldo Ochoa and the other Cuban military officers were executed for plotting to overthrow Cuban leader Fidel Castro, contrary to accusations that they were involved in drug trafficking.

GLOBE reports that the report was secretly written by French journalist Frances Philippe Clarence in Cuba and by the exiled Cuban journalist Jacobo Machover in Miami.

The magazine publishes the original of a letter that Commander Amado Padron, one of those executed together with Ochoa on 13 July, sent to a friend on 3 June, before he was arrested by the Cuban security.

In this letter, Padron announced: "I think that I, together with an important group of comrades, will be arrested very shortly. The members of this group have discussed Cuba's future."

The group understood that "in view of the country's great economic, political, and social crisis, the only solution was for Fidel and Raul (the president's brother) to resign," Padron wrote.

Padron said that the plotters were thinking of presenting a program to the National Assembly of the People's Government calling for the dismissal of the Castro brothers, an initiative that would be accompanied by "an uprising in strategic military units throughout the country."

The Cuban security, GLOBE says, had installed microphones in the residence of General Diocles Torralba, then transportation minister and vice president of the Council of Ministers, who was later arrested and sentenced to prison for "bad conduct." "It was common knowledge that Torralba was not the best example of revolutionary chastity and moral conduct," the report recalls.

According to the GLOBE story, on 27 May Torralba hosted a dinner attended by Ochoa, Colonel Antonio (Tony) de la Guardia (executed), Torralba's son-in-law, his twin brother Patricio de la Guardia (who received a prison sentence), and Padron, Tony's assistant. During the gathering, Ochoa "said that he was worried about the situation of his officers and soldiers who returned from Angola," and also made some anti-Castro statements.

Clarence and Machover wrote: "This conversation was reported by one of the counterespionage agents tasked with watching the group. In a letter signed by Rodolfo, the agent recounted the mission that he reluctantly fulfilled: to install microphones in Torralba's house."

On 29 May, Raul Castro, "chief of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces," summoned Ochoa and told him that he had been withdrawn from the western army command, "only a few days after Ochoa had been appointed," the reportage continues.

On 4 June, Padron wrote his letter.

On 10 June, Torralba, Ochoa, Tony and Patricio de la Guardia, Padron, and Captain Jorge Martinez (executed), plus another 11 officers, were arrested.

On 14 June, "Raul Castro went to the Senior Officers' Club and gave a speech that was retransmitted by television." He admitted "that some day it will probably be known what Ochoa and Diocles did," GLOBE states.

"Raul's speech is the key piece that shows the widespread consternation among top government leaders. The crisis began and now it was a matter of making it a scandal. Fidel did that himself through an editorial published in GRANMA, the party organ. On the morning of 16 June, the people finally learned the 'true' reason for the arrests in the Armed Forces and the Interior Ministry: drug trafficking," the story adds.

The officers were stripped of their ranks and court martialed. At 0400 on 13 July, Ochoa, Tony de la Guardia, Padron, and Martinez fell to the shots of the firing squad "under the light of powerful spotlights."

According to the letter published by GLOBE, Padron wrote to his friend that someone had denounced them.

Ecuadoran Minister To Undergo Surgery in Havana

FL1011224589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2037 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Alfredo Vera, minister of education and culture of Ecuador, will arrive in our country tomorrow. According to news reports released in Quito, he will receive specialized medical attention here. The reports add that the Ecuadoran education minister will undergo surgery in a Havana hospital to treat a herniated disk in the spinal cord.

Hunger Striking Prisoner's Condition Worsens

PA1011193089 Paris AFP in Spanish 1836 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Havana, 10 Nov (AFP)—Cuban dissident sources in Havana today reported that Cuban prisoner Alfredo Mustelier is experiencing "severe dehydration" and alarming side effects after 10 days on a no food or liquids strike.

The sources told Western press agencies that the prisoner's wife, Maria Caridad Aguirre, visited him on 9 November at the Combinado del Este Prison, where Mustelier is experiencing "breathing problems, headaches, eye problems," and other side effects like "being disoriented in time and place and talking incoherently."

Mustelier's wife, accompanied by retired lawyer Jorge Bacallao, was given permission to visit her husband after she wrote a letter to the authorities stressing the danger Mustelier is in.

Mrs Mustelier and the dissident groups told the authorities that they would ask the Western press to stop its campaign for Mustelier and ask Mustelier to end his no food or liquids strike at the same time that an appropriate Cuban court [words indistinct] Cuban jail—demands the right to benefit from the new penal code that sets the maximum sentence at 20 years. Mustelier has just completed his 20th year in prison.

The sources added that the striker's disorientation makes it impossible for them to know if Mustelier has understood the terms of the agreement.

Armed Brigades Created To Halt Stealing of Fruit

FL1011145489 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1230 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Report by Carlos Arabia Marrero during "Haciendo Radio" program, monitored in progress]

[Text] [Unidentified speaker] ...45 caliber 6-shot revolvers, a rifle, and the comrades here who are hunters have their own shotguns.

[Arabia Marrero] You have thus eliminated the robbery of the tasty fruit which is harvested here in Caney and admired, loved, and liked by the Cuban people.

[Speaker] It has been completely eliminated. No one trespasses here. No one even thinks he can come here and live off the sweat of the peasants and the state.

[Arabia Marrero] I think this is a good experience that can be applied throughout the rest of the country in many rural areas where there are many individuals who try to take advantage of the sweat of the peasants.

[Speaker] I call on the other comrade presidents of municipal cooperatives in the province to do the same kind of work we are doing because we must do it! We must check crime and we must end it!

[Arabia Marrero] We are here in Caney at the Roberto Lame Lafont Cooperative where two armed brigades [brigadas de escopeteros] have been created with the support of the National Revolutionary Police. Crime has been eliminated here. It is practically impossible for anyone to illicitly remove the tasty fruit that is harvested here in the Caney area in Santiago de Cuba.

I will later speak to Pepe Luis Fernandez, chief of the two armed brigades at the Roberto Lame Lafont Cooperative here in Caney.

Police Chief Praises Brigades

FL1011154489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1339 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Report by Carlos Arabia Marrero from Santiago de Cuba Province during "Haciendo Radio" program]

[Text] [Arabia Marrero] We are here in Caney with the armed brigade [brigada de escopeteros] which has said "no" to crime by uniting with a group of workers. The two brigades now guard their own property, as well as state property, and no crimes have been reported.

I would like to find out what the National Revolutionary Police [PNR] in this area think about the work of the peasants who comprise these two brigades in the Roberto Lame Lafont (?goods) and services cooperative. To find this out, I have here First Lieutenant (Digno Vicerge), who is the PNR Chief in the town of Caney.

What do you think of the work done by these armed peasant groups that have joined with many workers to safeguard their property and the state's property?

[(Vicerge)] This action has been organized by the (Ruben) peasant brigade and another brigade in the area. We can say, and I reaffirm this, that their work has been positive. The creation of this brigade has helped us counteract crime.

In making a true assessment of the peasants' activities, we can also say that if this is extended throughout the country, we could reduce the current crime rate by almost 50 percent. We can say that the creation of such a peasant brigade here in the mountains is an impregnable bastion. The peasant brigade has joined us. We have joined them. They have conducted efficient work in the prevention of crime.

[Arrabia Marrero] You just heard 1st Lt (Digno Vicerge), PNR chief in Caney, giving us his assessment of the armed brigades created to protect Cuba's finest fruits from crime, as well to safeguard animals on private and state property.

This is an initiative taken in Santiago de Cuba that could easily be applied in other parts of the country.

Oil Found in Bay of Cardenas, Matanzas

FL1111164289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] The first Cuban well being drilled in the sea, in the Bay of Cardenas in Matanzas Province, has shown the existence of oil in that area. Petroleum rises spontaneously and pressure in the upper layers is equivalent to 400 atmospheres.

Testing in this well, which is located at the end of the Marbella causeway, started 15 days ago, and early results showed the existence of oil. The well is 3,034 meters deep. Next week, it will be possible to determine its production potential. The test also showed the economic benefit stemming from the Marbella Causeway, the first road built on the sea in the Bay of Cardenas.

Haiti

Panamanian Envoy Declared Persona Non Grata

PA1311041489 Paris AFP in Spanish 0255 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 12 Nov (AFP)—Rafael Vargas Santos, Panamanian ambassador to Haiti, was officially declared "persona non grata" today by General Prosper Avril's military government because of his interference in the country's internal affairs. He left Haiti today. The ambassador's wife, Eulalia Garcia Obando de Vargas, who was the counselor at the embassy, and the mission's attache, Rafael Vargas Samuco, were also named in the decree.

On 9 November Rafael Vargas Santos went to the Justice Palace in Port-au-Prince to offer his moral support to three opposition members—Evans Paul, Jean Auguste Mesyeux, and Etienne Marineau—who are accused of "conspiring against the state's security" and were allegedly subjected to harsh treatment following their arrest on 1 November. On that occasion the ambassador explained on a private television station, "Tele-Haiti," that his action was motivated by the support that some of the arrested people, as well as the labor and political organizations to which they belong, had given to Panama's cause in the past.

The weekend edition of the state-owned Haitian newspaper L'UNION strongly protested against "the moral support given to terrorists" by the diplomat, and the presumption that he and "his Haitian fifth-column could dictate the law and sow terror." The newspaper also said that there is a plan "to place Haiti in the Medellin cartel's hands under the guise of international solidarity."

General Henri Namphy's previous military government in Haiti, ousted in September 1988, had maintained excellent relations with General Manuel Antonio Noriega's Panamanian regime.

Theodore: Negotiate New Form of Government

FL0911162189 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1500 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Excerpts] On 7 November the first day of the strike was adhered to almost 100 percent. [passage omitted] Rene Theodore, the head of the Unified Party of Haitian Communists, made a statement in the afternoon about the strike. [passage omitted]

[Begin Theodore recording] [passage omitted] This movement, these 2 days of strike, fall within the framework of an entire action program called for by the National Assemblage, which should culminate in a big nationwide protest on 29 November so that we can arrive at negotiations to change the form of government in this country, because this form of government does not provide a guarantee for either people's lives or the progress of society. We can say that the National Assemblage has again, through this strike, emerged strengthened; and that it has acquired even greater authority to negotiate the form of the government.

We note that the Army General Staff has issued a communique saying that henceforth the military does not have the right to beat people, to torture any citizen. This means that Army officers also feel that their image has been sullied by these methods being employed by a government that claims to be a military government, whereas army regulations forbid this kind of thing.

(?Therefore), we feel that the Assemblage is now in an even better position to negotiate with the military institution for another form of government, which should not be the government of a single institution; a military government which has shown for the past 3 years that the members of the Armed Forces are confiscating power in the form of personal authority; and that it is not really the institution that is in power; and that he [as heard] will not share power with any other national agency. We have a situation in which the government in place is a personal government, and a government that wishes to get involved in intimidation and repression in order to defend itself, as was the case under Duvalier.

We think that the country has reached the point where we really must get beyond this situation; that all democrats in all institutions, both civilians and military, must get together so that we can get beyond this situation—within the framework of large-scale negotiations that should result in another form of government. [end recording]

Army Disperses Antigovernment Demonstration

FL0911190789 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] There was a demonstration yesterday evening in the streets of Petit Goave to demand the release of Jean Auguste Mesyeux, Evans Paul, and Etienne Marineau, as well as to demand that General Prosper Avril's military government step down. Our Petit Goave correspondent Maxard Metellus says this demonstration was dispersed by the Army. Here is his report.

[Begin recording] At approximately 1800 on Wednesday, 8 November, a demonstration began in Petit Goave to demand the release of K. Plim, Mesyeux, and Marineau and the resignation of the Avril-Heubreux government. The demonstrators were beating drums and chanting that if these three men are not released and the Avril-Heubreux government does not resign, the schools will not reopen in Petit Goave.

Upon arriving at the corner of Saint Paul and La Justice Streets, the demonstrators ran right into the commander of the military district of Petit Goave, Lieutenant Henrius Jacquet. The demonstrators informed the district commander of their demands and got it all off their chests. They asked him to carry the message to Gen Avril.

A few minutes after this encounter, a team of soldiers showed up and dispersed the demonstrators. The military arrested two people, whom they later released. After the military dispersed the demonstration, soldiers in civilian clothing and in olive green uniforms, armed with heavy caliber weapons, spread all over Petit Goave.

This is Maxard Metellus, Radio Soleil, Petit Goave. [end recording]

Alleged Plotters Appear in Court, Claim Beatings

FL0911213289 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1730 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Evans Paul, alias K. Plim; Jean Auguste Mesyeux, and Etienne Marineau were taken to the Law Courts in Port-au-Prince on the morning of 9 November. As they entered the court tears rose in everyone's eyes at the sight of the suffering these three militants had endured.

Despite his suffering, Evans Paul managed to say that they beat the hell out of us because they are a bunch of cowards. One way or another, this has to change in Haiti.

After spending some 4 hours before the examining magistrate, a group of people who had been demanding the release of these three men began chanting slogans hostile to the current government. We noticed K. Plim making an effort to raise his hand, as if to say here I am.

Let's listen to the chanting of the partisans present. [Chants in Creole of "Liberty," "People's government", and "Down with Avril" heard]

Out of these three members of the political opposition arrested by the police on 1 November, the one best able to make a little effort to walk alone was Auguste Mesyeux. Etienne Marineau had to be held up by three other men as he was leaving the Law Courts to get back into the police vehicle to be taken back to the National Penitentiary.

After the militants were returned to the National Penitentiary, their partisans present organized a small demonstration, during which they chanted slogans, as you just heard, hostile to the current government. This small group of demonstrators then headed for the corner of Rue Champs de Mars and Boulevard Jean-Jacques Dessalines where they began erecting a barricade and obstructing traffic.

At the Law Courts, it was impossible for us journalists to interview any of the three men or even to talk to any partisan of theirs (?or) one of their defense lawyers. The police wouldn't let us. They said it wasn't possible.

So, that's how things went. We don't know if the small demonstration that started is still in the streets. We are going to investigate this and if there is anything new, we will inform our listeners.

This is Radio Soleil. It is 1517.

'Armed Citizens' Ransack Homes, Make Arrest

FL0911202989 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Last night [8 November], a team of armed citizens ransacked the home of Thomas Beauchard, who is Patrick Beauchard's uncle, and arrested Bony Beauchard, Patrick Beauchard's cousin. The home of Chavannes Jean-Baptiste [Papaye Peasants Movement leader] was also ransacked last night in Hinche. [passage omitted]

Capital, Provinces Report on 2d Strike Day

FL0911151289

[Editorial Report] Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole at 1200 GMT on 8 November carries a report on the 2d day of the 2-day strike called by the Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers. A Radio Nationale correspondent in the capital reports that there is relatively more activity today than yesterday but the schools remain closed.

Gonaives correspondent Brady Delva reports that the marketplace opened early and public offices are functioning normally but that much of commerce has come to a standstill. Public transportation running to the capital is not operating. "Vehicles traveling north, northwest, and south of Gonaives continue to run normal schedules."

Correspondent Gaimes Joseph in Leogane reports "even primary and secondary schools run by monks and nuns remained closed today. Public transportation between Leogane and Port-au-Prince is not operating again today. All public buildings, grocery stores, and small shops have opened as usual."

Nicholas Fleuranvil reports from Hinche that "Hinche does not look like a town on strike, especially because today is market day. All other activities are normal except that the schools remaining closed." "We have learned that in many other places, such as Maissade, schools are operating normally, as is everything else."

Correspondent Rodrigue F. Sejour in Saint-Marc reports "buses are not running from Saint-Marc to Port-au-Prince. Today is market day in Pont Sonde but activity is not as intense as usual. All stores and public offices have opened today."

Correspondent Mozart Duplan in Jacmel reports "more activity in the marketplace today than yesterday. Government offices are open with all employees present."

CATH Urges People To 'Restock,' Await Word

FL0911201489 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Today, the strike was observed to the same extent as yesterday, with the only difference being that there was a visible increase in the number of public transportation vehicles on certain streets in Port-au-Prince. This did not, however, lead to much activity either at the main terminals for travel to the provinces or at the big shopping centers in Port-au-Prince. [passage omitted]

At the end of the strike day, the Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers [CATH], through its secretary for organization Yves Antoine Richard, made a statement in which it asked the Haitian people to remain mobilized and await further watchwords. CATH said this 2-day strike, which was adhered to, represents for CATH the expression of the Haitian people's displeasure with the general-president and his acolytes.

[Begin Richard recording] [passage omitted] The total support for this strike means that the Haitian people have told the "insecurity general" to keep his distance and has shown the entire world that it has erected a solid rampart against any possibility of a return to barbarity, violence, and torture sessions in the dungeons of the Dessalines Barracks, the National Palace, Fort Dimanche, the Port-au-Prince prefecture, and the offices of the antigang service—which reminds us of the vile methods Francois Duvalier's macoutes employed in the sixties.

The Haitian people swear that they are not going back to Francois Duvalier's hell!

Avril must give up! The entire country has risen up. The entire country is against him. The Haitian people are no longer afraid. We will not bow down to a handful of murderers.

CATH once again demands the unconditional release of Jean Auguste Mesyeux, Evans Paul, and Etienne Marineau. It also calls for a quick meeting of all leaders of union federations, people's organizations, political parties, and so forth (?within) the framework of a big uprising to derail Avril's train of insecurity and repression, which has already left many victims.

The strike will be lifted precisely at midnight, so that the Haitian people can restock. Everyone must stock up on food at home. You must remain mobilized and await future watchwords. The coming days will be sad ones but there will be a day of deliverance. [passage omitted]

Down with repression! Down with torture! Down with fear! Long live the liberation of the comrades! Hang in there! Don't give up!

[signed] Yves Antoine Richard, secretary general [title as heard]; Joseph Manusi Pierre, secretary for information [title as heard] [end recording]

Jamaica

Prices Increase for Nine Basic Food Items

FL1011155889 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Food prices went up yesterday in Jamaica. Those increases in the cost of nine basic food commodities are tied to a devaluation of the Jamaican dollar last week.

Jamaica's Commodity Trading Company compiles a figure for a basic food basket, including such things as chicken, bread, cooking oil, and other staples. That figure reflected increases ranging as high as 18 percent. Other commodities have also been affected in price over the last month, including sugar and car tires.

Several labor unions are calling on Prime Minister Michael Manley to allow wages to increase in order to keep pace with the price rises.

Opposition Party Governor Takes Office 1 Nov

PA0111210589 Paris AFP in Spanish 1655 GMT 2 Nov 89

[By Luis Granovsky]

[Text] On the night of 1 November, for the first time in the history of Mexico, an opposition party installed one of its members as governor of a state. Almost all local analysts agree that this has broken the Institutional Revolutionary Party's [PRI] monopoly of power in a manner that will deeply affect the political future of the country.

Surrounded by delirious supporters of the rightist National Action Party (PAN), and in the presence of Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Ernesto Ruffo, a 37-year-old businessman, was sworn in as governor of Baja California. Baja California is a prosperous state on the Mexican-U.S. border.

Shouts of "With Ruffo we did it" roared on throughout the night in Mexicali, 2,000 km north of Mexico City. An occasional hurrah was also heard for Salinas de Gortari, who delivered his first State of the Nation speech yesterday—11 months after being sworn in as president.

Ruffo described the historic task ahead, and said: "I am aware of the complexities and difficulties of this period of transition in which the past is not yet buried and the future is not yet formed." Ruffo, who won the July elections over ruling party candidate Margarita Ortega, said that the residents of Baja California "are bent on proving that democracy and federalism are possible."

In the months before the elections the federal government had outlined several development and assistance plans for Baja California, which were described as an attempt to influence the electoral process. Salinas has now vowed to fulfill these plans.

The opposition, even the parties other than the PAN, knows that Ruffo's performance will have a major effect on other states in which the PRI is not popular and has been accused, on occasion, of committing fraud in order to stay in power.

Several of those states, such as Chihuahua and Sonora, are in the north of the country, where the PAN has strong roots and will certainly try to repeat the experience of Baja California.

The analysts are also wondering how the PRI will perform and how it will fare as an opposition party in the future, when it no longer enjoys the authority, resources, and facilities that power bestowed upon it.

For some leftist sectors, however, Ruffo's ascent is the embodiment of the bipartisan government sought by the PRI (263 congressional seats) and the PAN (101) seats. The two parties recently agreed to promote an electoral reform plan that the other parties rejected.

What is indisputable, however, is that for the first time in this century the usual meeting that the president holds with the governors the day after he delivers his annual State of the Nation report was attended by a non-PRI governor, a man who was able to make the central government recognize his victory.

U.S. Ambassador Negroponte's Performance Praised

PA0911153289 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 29 Oct 89 p 30-A

[From "Political Fronts" column by Carlos A. Medina]

[Text] Much has been said about the excellent relations that Mexico and the United States are now enjoying.

These magnificent relations are highly productive for the Mexican Government. It can be seen how the mass media in the neighboring country has changed in Mexico's favor, and especially in favor of the administration of Carlos Salinas de Gortari. The media may not have changed completely, but it has changed to a high degree.

An observer of international affairs has commented that the results are obvious, and highlighted that the campaign opposition parties have carried out against the Mexican Government no longer receives the same coverage in the U.S. press. No longer is Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano, leader of the Party of the Democratic Revolution, "the voice that monopolizes the attention of the gringo newspapers to highlight and reiterate the mistakes of the Mexican political system."

This and other facts, such as the appreciable increase of U.S. investments in Mexico, the opening of new market opportunities, and recognition of Mexico's campaign against drug trafficking, are no longer reasons for criticism. The reason appears to be the role of one man, who arrived preceded by a black track record [negro cartel], but who has struggled to prove the contrary.

He is U.S. Ambasador to Mexico John Dimitri Negroponte.

Without John Gavin's meddling verbiage and without the enigmatic character of Charles Pilliod, Washington's representative to Mexico has known how—in the wake of a storm following his appointment—to mollify the stormy waters.

He is now seen at all social and diplomatic events. He attends private and public ceremonies, and politicians of all trends and ideologies share his table, without any of the political representatives accusing him of meddling in Mexico's internal affairs.

Moderation, discretion, and affability have been the main characteristics of his diplomatic endeavor.

Negroponte himself has explained his way of practicing politics in Mexico. He has told friends that his post as U.S. ambassador to Mexico gave him an opportunity to demonstrate that everything he was criticized about had no basis whatsoever, but was instead due to a lack of understanding of his way of behaving under very exceptional circumstances that have nothing to do with Mexico and circumstances that do not exist in Mexico. Mexico requires polite and firm treatment, but without threats or shouts.

Many explain that Ambassador Negroponte himself made a special effort so that Salinas de Gortari's recent visit to the United States "would be a complete success, not only for Mexico but for the United States."

Many have asserted that unlike what happened in the past few years, Negroponte respects decisions made by the Mexican Foreign Relations Secretariat, avoids giving opinions on internal political matters, and when he meets with opposition or government political leaders keeps his questions discreet, not going beyond what is allowed as an ambassador.

Negroponte does not encourage or discourage any political group, and when he pays courtesy vists to labor organizations, the Senate, or the Chamber of Deputies, or when he meets with a governor from any part of the country, his topics of conversation generally deal with U.S. social and economic participation in Mexico, and he does not make any partisian political comments.

It has been several months since he took up his post as U.S. ambassador in Mexico, and Negroponte is no longer the center of criticism. Will he last long? They say it all depends on him.

Police Arrest Colombian Drug Figure 'El Negro'

PA1011233989 Paris AFP in Spanish 2128 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Nov (AFP)—Mexican narcotics police have arrested Colombian citizen Jorge Humberto Chalaria, known as "El Negro," the representative in Mexico of Colombian drug trafficker Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, otherwise known as "El Mexicano," the top chief of the Medellin Cartel, the Attorney General's Office (PGR) made known today.

Chalaria, 30 years old, 5 other Colombians, 1 Venezuelan, and 12 Mexicans have been arrested "in the last 2 days," and 550 kg of pure cocaine have been confiscated in operations conducted in this city and in the states of Sonora and Tamaulipas, a PGR spokesman said.

The gang of drug traffickers led by Chalaria were able to deliver over 50 tons of pure cocaine to the states of California and Florida over the last 4 years, the PGR spokesman added.

"El Negro" confessed that he had been in Mexico since 1988 under the orders of Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, according to the same source.

The international drug trafficking gang had the protection of Arturo Cuellar Tijerina, commander of the Tamaulipas judicial police, who was also arrested.

Cuellar and a group of policemen under his orders supplied fuel to the drug traffickers, who brought the drugs into Mexico by means of light aircraft, which landed on clandestine airstrips near the U.S. border.

Those arrested confessed that American Julio Chagy de la Rosa, a Miami resident, distributed the drug and "laundered" the money obtained in the drug trafficking business through a company called "Ital Bagno," which supposedly manufactured stoves.

They said that on 29 October they received a load of 550 kg of pure cocaine from Colombia, brought into the country from a ranch located in Sonora. The narcotics police detected the illegal operation at the ranch and arrested Alfonso Castillo Armenta and his daughter, who had modern radio communications equipment to make contact with the Colombian planes and "El Negro."

The investigations led the police to a residential neighborhood in this capital, where "El Negro" had rented a home, where he lived with a Venezuelan woman by the name of Cristina Rosas Rodriguez, who covered up the activities conducted by her companion.

The arrest is the third heavy blow dealt to the international drug trafficking business by the Mexican police in the last 3 weeks.

On 19 October, the police arrested Colombians Rodrigo Dizunza Ochoa, nephew of drug trafficker Fabio Ochoa, and Alfredo Aguilar Castro, nephew of Colombian drug trafficker Rodriguez Gacha; they had 10 kg of pure cocaine in their possession.

Early this month, Mexican Rafael Munoz Talavera was arrested. He allegedly owns the 20 tons of pure cocaine discovered in a warehouse in Los Angeles, California, in September.

Since President Carlos Salinas de Gortari took office last December, the Mexican narcotics police have confiscated 23 tons of pure cocaine and have arrested nearly 10,000 drug traffickers.

Costa Rica

Government Asks U.S. To Close Contra Shelter

PA1111144789 Paris AFP in Spanish 0543 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] San Jose, 10 Nov (AFP)—Government sources have informed the local press that a shelter in San Jose financed by the United States for former "contra" fighters who are receiving "humanitarian aid" should cease to function in February to "avoid problems." The shelter, located in the eastern sector of San Jose, 2 km from the presidential house, is financed by the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID), and a total of 900 contras have received medical attention there, according to reports published in the weekly UNIVERSIDAD.

Public Security Minister Hernan Garron told the newspaper that even though the government considers this humanitarian aid important, it has asked the AID to close the shelter in February.

In September 1988 the press described the center as a clandestine hospital for wounded "contras," a report which the government denied although it acknowledged the existence of an agreement for the shelter's operation.

Government and Police Minister Antonio Alvarez said that the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has not accepted the former contra fighters as refugees, but AID provides refugee assistance for them.

Arias 'Pleased' With UN Central America Force

PA0911141589 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Costa Rican President Oscar Arias has said he is pleased with the UN Security Council approval of a UN civilian-military commission for Central America. This commission involves approximately 600 civilian and military people who will watch the Nicaraguan-Honduran border and the Gulf of Fonseca to prevent the shipment of arms to the Salvadoran guerrillas.

Arias said that U.S. support for this commission is very important because it represents a very significant step in the pacification effort.

In the past few days, President Arias has been in telephone contact with area chiefs of state and with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Arias has said he has told Perez de Cuellar he wants a successful meeting between the Sandinist Government and the Nicaraguan Resistance in the United Nations. He also congratulated Honduran President Jose Azcona for having decided to send observers to the meeting proposed by the chief of state of Nicaragua.

Arias noted: "I hope they go to that meeting with a spirit of flexibility and goodwill and that they set dogmatism aside to secure a truce and, more than that, an effective cease-fire that should allow an unobstructed electoral process in that country."

Referring to the meeting between the Sandinists and the Nicaraguan Resistance in the United Nations, Arias said that the regional peace process requires the adoption of immediate action to have peace in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

He said that there are encouraging signs that allows the people to believe that the peace process is alive and on the right track.

Madrigal for 'Stronger Action' on Panama at OAS

PA0911214689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1841 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] San Jose, 9 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal announced today that Costa Rica will demand a "stronger action" to resolve the Panamanian crisis at the OAS General Assembly, which will meet in Washington on Monday.

The minister said: "The Costa Rican Government believes that the OAS must take firmer, clearer, stronger and more direct action on this problem."

After the Panamanian elections were annulled on 7 May, the OAS designated a commission of foreign ministers, who visited Panama several times and succeeded in having the government, the military, and the opposition sit down for a dialogue, but the talks ended without an agreement.

Madrigal thinks that, if "the OAS does not make a clear-cut decision on Panama, this would be a very serious thing."

According to the foreign minister, "it is essential that respect for human rights be advocated internationally, to a certain extent."

Otherwise, the minister warned, "the OAS objectives would be changed and its charter would be weakened."

Madrigal said: "I am attending the OAS General Assembly with this same spirit and intention, although we do not know what the fate of this position will be."

He added that Costa Rica "cannot boast of military forces, economic power, or high technology to influence other people's decisions. Costa Rica can indeed boast of a world of democratic values with which we can work for some fundamental purposes."

During his talk with reporters, Madrigal said a group of civilians of the UN Observers for Central America [ONUCA] will be located along the border with Nicaragua "to keep in touch" with the other groups that will be located along the other Central American countries' borders.

ONUCA, "which will take a relatively short time to set up camp in the area," will make sure that no country in the area is used by unconventional armed groups to attack another country, Madrigal said. ONUCA will also help prevent the transfer of arms for any group of guerrillas.

Touching upon the suspension of the dialogue by the rebels in El Salvador, Madrigal told ACAN-EFE that the guerrillas have assumed a "very irreversible position" on this subject during the past few days.

The minister finally said: "Maybe we can do something in the future" so that talks between Salvadorans can be resumed.

El Salvador

Communique Issued on FENASTRAS Attack

PA1011043589 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 9 Nov 89 p 3

[Text] The Government of President Alfredo Cristiani yesterday reaffirmed its willingness to thoroughly investigate the attack against FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation]. It also made an appeal so that no accusations lacking scientific support are made so as not to generate speculations that politicize this case.

In an official communique, the government made the preceding statement because of the "biased propagandistic campaign being developed by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] and other political and labor union organizations, seeking to create a distorted view of the recent terrorist attacks in the country."

The communique recalls that on the same day of the terrorist attack against FENASTRAS, the government condemned such criminal action. The communique also expresses the government's intention to conduct a thorough investigation within a framework worthy of confidence. The government has decided to create a commission that will be composed of representatives from the United Nations, the OAS, CEDES [Salvadoran Episcopal Conference], political parties, labor union organizations—including one from FENASTRAS—Dr Ignacio Ellacuria, the prosecuting attorney's office, and the justice minister.

However, FENASTRAS leaders have continued hindering the investigation at the site of the incident, the communique adds.

The government communique states that the FENASTRAS refusal to participate in the commission could be interpreted as "an intentional plan by FENASTRAS leaders to prevent the investigation to determine who is responsible for this terrorist attack." Therefore, the government communique requests the abandonment of such an attitude.

The government, the communique adds, believes that the investigation is legal and that FENASTRAS has the moral duty to help in the investigation to clarify this case.

The government of President Cristiani reiterated its appeal to citizens to abstain from making accusations lacking scientific evidence, in order to prevent speculation that hampers the normal development of the judicial process that has already begun. The government reiterated that "its true objective is to clarify this barbaric action and to punish those responsible, no matter who they are."

"We request all citizens to abstain from issuing speculative opinions, and, should they have something to report that would help clarify this regrettable incident, they should do it through the judicial process," the official government communique states.

The government reaffirmed its determination to continue searching for peace through peaceful means and dialogue. According to the Mexico agreements, the FLMN is also obliged to continue with the dialogue process and "cannot unilaterally withdraw because it would be violating not only those agreements, but also the aspiration of our people, which is to attain peace," the communique says.

FMLN Accuses Cristiani of Promoting Violence

PA1111025589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2351 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 10 Nov (ACAN-EFE) — Salvadoran guerrillas accused President Alfredo Cristiani of promoting violence against people's organizations and its leaders in a letter sent today by the Salvadoran guerrillas to President Cristiani. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) also accuses Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, of direct involvement in the attack against the headquarters of an opposition labor union in which nine people were killed.

In the document, the guerrillas proposed that Cristiani negotiate the conditions that will permit the resumption of the dialogue, with the mediation of some Latin American presidents.

The guerrillas decided not to attend the round of talks with the government scheduled for 20 November in Caracas after the attack on the Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation [FENASTRAS] on 31 October.

The Salvadoran president has denied any responsibility for this attack and has made a commitment to "thoroughly" investigate it with the support of the United Nations, the OAS, the Salvadoran Catholic Church, political and labor leaders, and officials from the judicial branch.

The rebels' document to Cristiani states: "The dialogue's current conditions must be thoroughly reviewed. You must send us a list of the organizations that your government believes support the FMLN to create a framework of guarantees for the Salvadoran people."

The FMLN also accuses the government and the Armed Forces of waging an orchestrated campaign against FENASTRAS prior to the attack, saying "the typical strategy of responding to guerrilla military operations is with attacks and destructive actions against the civilian noncombatant population."

The attack took place 1 day after the FMLN attack against the Armed Forces High Command and the Defense Ministry in which a civilian was killed and some 15 people were injured.

"It is clear that the policy of your government is to attack people's organizations," the rebels point out in their document, adding that "the facts have proven that it is not possible to hold a dialogue under such conditions."

According to the guerrillas, Cristiani wants "to be free of responsibility in this case, because the commission (in charge of conducting an investigation on this attack) will be unable to report who the culprits are, which will prove that you and the Armed Forces had nothing to do with this incident."

The Salvadoran political parties invited by Cristiani to join the commission investigating the attack against FENASTRAS have demanded that the right-wing goverment define the duties and limitations of the commission.

Attack on Guard Headquarters Kills Two

PA1111191989 Paris AFP in Spanish 1832 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 11 Nov (AFP)—An official report says that the attack perpetrated today by urban guerrilla commandos on the National Guard general headquarters, located in the northern sector of the capital, resulted in two dead and eight wounded.

Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) commandos fired six 85-mm mortar rounds against the garrison, but only one fell inside the premises, wounding three soldiers and causing damage, National Guard Director General Colonel Juan Carlos Carrillo has reported to the media. He added that one of the homemade mortar rounds hit a house beside the garrison, killing two children. The children were playing inside the house, and their bodies were ripped apart by the explosion. The other four rounds fell in empty lots around the military installations, the military commander asserted.

According to the source, the guerrilla forces had left a car bomb with six mortar rounds near the garrison, but police explosive experts dismantled the devices.

The military officer termed the attack, perpetrated from a distance of 800 meters from the garrison, as "a new failure for the terrorists," and emphasized that the action caused more damage among civilians living around the garrison.

The guerrilla forces attacked the National Guard headquarters on 1 November 1988 using two car bombs and firing mortar rounds, killing 3 and wounding 30 police officers.

The FMLN, which has been fighting against the Army for almost 10 years, announced this week that it would increase its actions against security corps and government economic targets.

Government Issues Communique

PA1111223089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2101 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 11 Nov (ACAN - EFE)— The Salvadoran Government has said that today's attack on the National Guard headquarters—in which two children were killed and eight people were injured—shows that the guerrillas "do not want peace and want to escalate the violence."

In a press communique, the Alfredo Cristiani government said that the attack "is another terrorist action that directly affects the civilian population and tramples human rights."

Legislative Assembly President Ricardo Valdivieso told ACAN-EFE that these actions "show the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's (FMLN) blindness and desperation."

National Guard Director Coronel Juan Carlos Carrillo said: "These are supposedly the big attacks by the terrorists; however, today's attack did not cause much damage to the garrison; instead, two children were killed." The children were 1 and ½ and 4 years old. Two soldiers were also wounded.

Urban guerrillas today hurled bombs at the National Guard headquarters. One of the bombs exploded inside the military facilities and the rest landed in a ravine.

One of the explosives hit a modest home killing two children and injuring five civilians.

Bomb experts dismantled a car bomb, which presumably had been left by guerrillas near the garrison.

Meanwhile, official sources reported that the Army and rebels have sustained at least 20 casualties during the past few hours as a result of clashes in San Salvador and Morazan Departments.

According to the Armed Forces Press Committee (COPREFA), 6 guerrillas were killed and 13 wounded in those clashes. The report notes the death of one soldier.

One of the clashes, which lasted over 1 hour, occurred on the slopes of the San Salvador Volcano, north of San Salvador.

Along with the intensification of military actions, the FMLN has resumed its sabotaging of the electricity system, leaving vast areas of El Salvador without power.

The rationing of electricity has lasted 4-6 hours in the metropolitan area, affecting industrial production. The lack of traffic lights has resulted in large traffic jams.

FMLN Launches Series of Attacks Nationwide

Fighting Intensifies; Bases Attacked

PA1211033289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0311 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 11 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—Several sources have reported that Salvadoran guerrillas began the night of 11 November with a series of attacks against military positions in the capital city and surrounding areas, including the headquarters of the 1st Infantry Brigade and the Military Academy.

According to the sources, the attacks began shortly after 2000 (0200 GMT) in at least eight positions in several points of San Salvador. So far, there are no reports of casualties on either side.

Witnesses reported that Army troops and Farabundo Marti National Liberation Marti (FMLN) guerrillas are waging bloody clashes near the headquarters of the 1st Infantry Brigade located in the Layco residential area, northeast of San Salvador.

Sources from the Red Cross reported to ACAN-EFE that they have sent ambulances and emergency teams to at least 10 areas in San Salvador, including Zacamil, San Antonio Abad, Miramonte, the Military Academy, and Mejicanos.

Soyopango Civil Defense Attacked

PA1211040289 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0325 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Report by Edwin Gongora—live]

[Text] Several attacks are taking place right now in several parts of the city of San Salvador. It has been confirmed that the Civil Defense sector in Soyopango is under attack right now, as well as a sector of the Air Force. Strong explosions and exchanges of gunfire have been heard. For the time being, we have no reports of any casualties on either side, that is, the extremists or the Army. However, it has been confirmed that the attacks against the military garrisons began at approximately 2045, and these attacks continue now at 2125.

These attacks are being carried out by members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front against various military garrisons in San Salvador.

We urge the people who live in those areas to refrain from going out. It is very difficult to move in those areas. For the time being, please stand by, and when the situation is under control, then you will be able to go home. For the time being, the situation is very difficult, as the explosions are very strong. The machine-gun fire is very heavy.

Fighting in San Salvador

PA1211041589 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0317 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Attention please, listeners of YSKL: We continue reporting on the recent incidents in the capital. According to reports we have received, the presidencial residence located in the Escalon neighborhood was the target of an attack tonight.

We have also learned that two vehicles of the Salvadoran Red Cross have also been attacked. One of them was totally destroyed by fire in the Mejicanos sector, and an ambulance was attacked near the National University.

We have also received reports from the northern National Guard sector in the San Joaquin neighborhood and surrounding areas, from where the attacks against the National Guard headquarters are being launched. Here is Francisco Benitez with an important last-minute report. Go ahead, Francisco:

[Begin Benitez relay] Good evening YSKL listeners. We have confirmed that clashes continue at this time of the night near the University of El Salvador between urban commandoes of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] and members of the 1st Infantry Brigade who are in area surrounding the University of El Salvador, specifically in front of the Institute of Urban Housing, IVU, offices.

This is a dark sector. All civilians, pedestrians, and drivers are asked to avoid this sector because heavy shooting continues in the area between rebels and members of the 1st Infantry Brigade. We have confirmed that there is a heavy exchange of fire in this sector. We have been told that pedestrians and drivers should be warned to avoid this area, as there is heavy shooting near the University of El Salvador. We have confirmed this. We can hear shooting everywhere in this sector, particularly in front of the IVU offices.

Members of the Civil Defense in Mejicanos have just confirmed that they are also fighting in Mejicanos at this time of the night.

Stay tuned, as we will continue reporting.

Guerrillas Attack Cristiani's Home

PA1211043889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0406 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 11 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani's home was the target of an attack tonight carried out by the guerrillas, who initiated simultaneous attacks against military positions in different parts of San Salvador, Radio Venceremos, official mouthpiece of the rebels, has informed.

Up until this moment, the attack against Cristiani's home, in an exclusive residential area in western San Salvador, has not been confirmed, however a local radio station called "YSU" reported that two policemen were wounded in the rebel incursion.

Another news station also reported that urban commando units of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] attacked the bodyguards of Ricardo Valdivieso, president of the Legislative Assembly and leader of the ruling ARENA [National Republican Alliance] Party.

The attacks began shortly after 2000 (0200 GMT) and 2 hours later intense fighting was heard in different parts of the Salvadoran capital.

Local radio stations have asked people to remain where they are.

Police Headquarters Attacked

PA1211054589 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0404 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Report by Rene Hurtado—live]

[Text] An attack against the National Police at Cuscatancingo began approximately 15-20 minutes ago. The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] urban commando groups attacked the military garrison in the area. There are no reports of any casualties yet. The bomb explosions and gunfire that are being heard throughout the city of San Salvador continue to this moment. We can hear them in the southern area. FMLN urban commando groups are engaged in heavy combat with the National Police members at Cuscatancingo.

The Salvadoran Red Cross will issue an official communique shortly. It has been confirmed what our fellow worker, Francisco Rodriguez, said, there are no casualties. However, vehicle No 85 of the Salvadoran Red Cross was set on fire when someone hurled a firebomb at it. The unit burned down completely, near the National University of El Salvador in the area of Zacamil.

Someone shot at the tires of Red Cross Unit No 93, and the driver lost control of the vehicle and crashed against a tree. No casualties were reported there either. A Salvadoran Red Cross source also told us that a vehicle is in the vicinity of the Astor movie theater, where apparently four people have bullet wounds as a result of the clashes that are taking place in the northern sector of the city.

FMLN urban command groups have deployed units that have been launching attacks since early this evening. The attacks began with this morning's attack on the National Guard. We were also told there might be many people wounded or dead from these attacks by the FMLN urban commando groups on various military positions.

The situation in the area of Zacamil near the National University is very critical. We advise our listeners to avoid the area and try to find other routes to enter Libertad neighborhood and other sectors close to the Zacamil neighborhood. Better yet, please wait, as the situation is very complicated.

We have also been told that the Civil Defense Command in (El Plan del Pito) has not been attacked. However, there was a clash between the Treasury Police and FMLN urban guerrillas who were wearing masks. The FMLN guerrillas simultaneously ambushed some members of the Treasury Police in the Unicentro area.

Armed Forces 'Control Everything'

PA1211055989 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0438 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] The Armed Forces have everything under control. We have toured the entire area; some have electricity, and others do not. The rebels have tried to create a situation. However, nothing has happened because the Armed Forces control everything.

This is a report from the entire area where there has been an attempt to create a situation of harassment, and that is what the Armed Forces are reporting tonight. In a certain sector, in the vicinity of Santa Tecla or, the entire situation that is being experienced tonight. [sentence as heard]

The Salvadoran people can rest assured that the Armed Forces control everything; there are only some bombings and shootings that will not lead to anything. This is only being done to make the people feel as if there were situations that are not different at all, because they will not lead to anything, the situation, right? [sentence as heard]

That is the report we can give you now, while we are experiencing the power outage, and the rebls are bringing everything to a standstill, but this will not lead to anything that would make the people feel that there is an alarming situation.

I am reporting live from the area of the Catholic University and Jardines La Sultana, where there is no electricity at present. We have made a great effort to contact you by telephone as we know this is the station that is heard throughout El Salvador and outside our country.

That is the situation at present. Everything is under control. There are no problems. It is just a harassment by the rebels who are trying to scare people. Everything is under control.

Clashes Continue

PA1211060989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0441 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—Two hours after the launching of a guerrilla offensive against military positions, the sound of machineguns and explosive devices is still being heard in different parts of the Salvadoran capital.

The offensive, which began at 2000 (0200 GMT), also includes military positions in the Departments of Usulutan and San Miguel, in the eastern part of the country, according to reports.

Military sources have confirmed the simultaneous attacks in San Salvador, and eyewitnesses have reported clashes in residential neighborhoods and towns outside the capital such as Ayutuxtepeque, Ciudad Delgado, San Ramon, Mejicanos, and Soyapango.

Likewise, it was reported that the attacks were intensified in various neighborhoods, such as Ciudad Merliot, in western San Salvador.

Local radio stations announced a national radio network, while army spokesmen, which have yet to give a report on the offensive, asked the people to remain home and those who are away from their homes, to stay where they are right now.

According to the Armed Forces, the situation is "under control" and "people must remain calm."

Radio stations have joined a national network and are only transmitting music, which is interrupted to broadcast reports on the military situation.

Two Red Cross ambulances were destroyed after being shot at.

Helicopters were heard flying over the capital, which in certain areas, such as Ciudad Merliot, are carrying out intense bombings against positions of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front guerrillas.

Colonel Ponce Issues Statement

PA1211080689 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0720 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Statement by Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Salvadoran Armed Forces; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Salvadoran people: Good morning. I am speaking on behalf of the Salvadoran Armed Forces, which are in action at 0115 on 12 November, confronting a treacherous attack by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] terrorists who at 2000 on 11 November—displaying their warmongering strategy and without caring about the suffering of the Salvadoran people—carried out treacherous actions in which the civilian population were the only ones who have suffered.

The military and public security personnel have reacted in an efficient manner in rejecting the terrorist enemy. We are obligated to report to the Salvadoran people what has happened. The most important actions that have taken place on the night of 11 November are as follows: an attack on the residence of the Legislative Assembly president, who is unharmed; and an attack on the Central Elections Council where no material damage or casualties occurred. Likewise, there was an attack on the presidential residence which caused slight material damage and no casualties. Fortunately for all Salvadorans, the president of the Republic is under full protection and he was never in any danger. Likewise, we report that there was an attack on his private residence. We also want to report to the Salvadoran people that some military personnel were harassed, such as the 1st Infantry Brigade, the National Police garrison in the Zacamil neighborhood, and the 6th Infantry Brigade in Usulutan City where one minor was injured. There was also harassment of the 3d Infantry Brigade with headquarters in San Miguel. There was no material damage, and there were no casualties.

The General Arce neighborhood was also a target of a cowardly attack from the Catholic University area. No property damage or casualties have been reported as a result of this action.

There have also been clashes in Ciudad Delgado, Mejicanos, the Metropolis and Maquiishuat neighborhoods, and areas near El Espino Farm. There are still no definite reports on the number of casualties sustained by the terrorists during the clashes. However, we can say that the FMLN has treacherously attacked government officials, politicians, and the metropolitan community in general.

The Armed Forces expresses its recognition to the Salvadoran people for the courage and serenity with which they faced the complex situation tonight.

The frank demonstration by the Salvadoran people, who expressed themselves through the media against the murderers of the people, the self-styled FMLN, their confidence in the Armed Forces and their clear support of our actions, obliges us to respond to this terrorist provocation as the situation warrants to bring peace to the Salvadoran people and maintain public order in complying with our constitutional duties. This should also make the FMLN terrorists realize that it is not through violence that they will achieve their political objectives.

We reiterate once again our gratitude to the Salvadoran people for their support and trust in the Armed Forces. We also thank the media, particularly the radio and television for their cooperation.

Salvadoran people: Let us have faith in God to achieve peace in our country.

I also want to express our recognition for the boldness, courage, and professionalism shown by the commanders, officers, and troops of all the military personnel and public security bodies in the metropolitan area and the defense activities carried out by our heroic soldiers in the 3d and 6th Brigades.

Salvadoran people: We can assure you that you have an Armed Forces at your service, ready to protect each one of you.

Shooting Continues; 30 Wounded

PA1211103089 Paris AFP in Spanish 1012 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Nov (AFP)—At least 30 civilians were wounded in the fierce clashes that took place in the capital city late last night and early this morning at different places in San Salvador, medical sources reported.

The shooting still continues nearly 6 hours after heavy shooting broke out at the four main points of the capital, according to reports.

At approximately 0130 on 12 November (0730 GMT), the Salvadoran guerrillas continued attacking military positions in Mejicanos on the northern area of the capital, and in Ciudad Merliot on the southern side of the San Salvador.

Media representatives saw at least 30 civilians being admitted to public hospitals in the city.

The Army, however, has not yet provided an official report on the casualties among the various military units that were attacked.

In a news bulletin about the situation in the Salvadoran capital, the Army's Radio Cuscatlan said that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] guerrillas also attacked the 3d Infantry Brigade with headquarters in San Miguel, a city 140 km east of the capital. The radio station claimed there were no casualties among the troops.

Violence Throughout Capital

PA1211135789 Paris AFP in Spanish 1252 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Nov (AFP)—Nine hours after a series of attacks were launched simultaneously by the Salvadoran guerrillas in different parts of the capital, one can still hear the explosions of powerful bombs, the strafing of rebel positions by Air Force helicopters, and heavy rifle fire.

A high-powered bomb shook the AFP offices in San Salvador a few minutes ago. It is just before daybreak, 0500 on Sunday morning. From the windows, one can see that the helicopters are dropping flares before firing to better locate their targets.

Urban cells of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) attacked at least 10 military positions in the capital at 2000 on Saturday night, and the attacks are apparently continuing this morning.

In addition to attacking military positions, the rebels also launched simultaneous attacks on the presidential palace, President Alfredo Cristiani's private home, the home of Ricardo Alvarenga, president of the Congress, and the installations of the Central Electoral Council.

Air Force helicopter gunships are still firing at alleged guerrilla positions, primarily in the northern part of San Salvador. An exchange of rifle fire has also intensified. The noise can be heard throughout the capital, where citizens are experiencing the worst anxiety of the past few years of civil war in El Salvador.

On a national radio network, the Armed Forces urged the people not to leave their homes before 0600 (1200 GMT).

Despite the intensity of the fighting, the Army has not yet reported on casualties on either side.

A military spokesman said over the radio network that the military units have surrounded the last rebel strongholds in Ayutuxtepeque, in the northern part of San Salvador.

In Ciudad Delgado, also on the northern side, "heavy fighting is continuing, but our units are bringing the situation under control," the military spokesman said over the radio network.

Important sectors of the city remain dark because the guerrillas sabotaged several electric pylons at the same time they launched the attacks on the military positions.

Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Staff, last week noted what he described as a "pre-insurrectional stage" on the part of the FMLN, primarily in urban areas.

Violence broke out on Saturday morning, when guerrilla urban commands launched a mortar attack on the National Guard headquarters in the capital. Two children and eight other people (three soldiers and five civilians) were wounded.

FMLN Promises Communiques

PA1211140589 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1220 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Radio Venceremos initiates its broadcast with a greeting to all the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] forces fighting throughout the national territory.

Radio Venceremos informs the Salvadoran people and the national and international press that within the next few minutes we will begin broadcasting important reports and communiques regarding the latest events that have unfolded in San Salvador and the entire nation. We ask the people and the national and international press to tune into Radio Venceremos because within the next minutes we will be broadcasting the first communiques and reports regarding all the events that have developed in the capital city and various parts of the country.

As we informed you last night, at 2000 FMLN forces initiated attacks on different Armed Forces positions in San Salvador and the entire nation. We ask the people to tune into Radio Venceremos because will provide step-by-step reports on all that has happened throughout the country.

Meanwhile, the fascist government has gagged all the media with the network muzzle it has established. Therefore, Radio Venceremos and Radio Farabundo Marti are, as of this moment, the channels through which the FMLN will inform and guide the people. Stay tuned.

Guerrilla Message to Soldiers

PA1211145189 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1358 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] This is a message to soldiers: You are common people; you belong to the poor classes of our country; you cannot continue defending the interests of the Cristianis, the Schonnenbergs, the oligarchs, and the war business Colonel Ponce has established in our country.

Soldiers: You have to make a decision right now. You must stop defending the murderers of La Tandona [name given to 1966 graduates of Captain Gerardo Barrios Military Academy]. Soldiers, you come from the people's ranks, and your place is next to the people.

This is an invitation to all patriotic soldiers and officers to join the people's struggle, to join the struggle to achieve peace, to take the banner of peace, and to stick it in the heart of those who have closed the doors to a solution of the conflict.

This is an appeal to all the rank and file in the Army to reflect on this moment, when the whole people are fighting 50 years of terrorism, 50 years of hunger, and 50 years of poverty.

Soldiers, you [word indistinct] your uniform. You are part of the people and, therefore, you must take this step. There is a place for you in our ranks. We will be waiting for you, and bring your rifle. With your decision you will [word indistinct] peace.

FMLN Reports on Clashes

PA1211150889 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1320 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Attention: Clashes continue in the capital city and most of the nation. A report came in at 0718 [1318 GMT] stating that an Air Force helicopter has been downed in San Miguel. Radio Venceremos will be offering important reports and communiques from the general command.

There are reports that clashes have continued in the capital and the different departmental capitals. Combat continues in San Salvador, Santa Ana, San Miguel, Usulutan, Sacatecoluca, and other parts of the country. We are currently receiving a great deal of information from the four war fronts, and a general report stating that combat continues throughout the nation.

A report received at 0719 stated that an Air Force helicopter had been downed. Likewise in the streets of San Miguel, Usulutan, and San Salvador, clashes continue at 0719 [1319 GMT].

A report from San Vicente states that clashes are under way in that city. A report from Sacatecoluca indicates that FMLN units are attacking the DMIFA [Armed Forces Engineers' Military Detachment] headquarters. At 0600 [1200 GMT] an armored vehicle was damaged, and the Army's positions at the old Sacatecoluca hospital have been besieged. Meanwhile, FMLN units have remained on the outskirts of San Vicente, where they are attacking Army positions.

At 2340 on 11 November, FMLN units, using RPG-7 rocket launchers, grenade launchers, and rifle fire, attacked a paratrooper battalion at the Comalapa Airport. We repeat, the Comalapa International Airport was attacked at midnight. We attacked a paratrooper battalion that was guarding the Comalapa Airport; we used RPG-7 rocket launchers, grenade launchers, and rifle fire. We attacked aircraft both inside and outside the hangar.

The attack against the Bracamonte Battalion, using 81-mm mortars, caused a fire inside Bracamonte Battalion installations. Attention, the report from Comalapa states that three helicopters were completely destroyed, one or two small planes destroyed, and two hangars and the aircraft inside them partially destroyed.

The report states there were numerous casualties at the Comalapa Airport, including Air Force pilots. In sum, three helicopters and one or two small planes were destroyed at Comalapa Airport. As of now, a total of four helicopters and one small plane have been destroyed.

As reported earlier, an helicopter was downed in San Miguel and fell over the Pan-American Highway. The report states that at 0630 [1230 GMT] today, FMLN units downed a helicopter at the 15 September neighborhood in San Miguel; it fell on the Pan-American Highway. This confirms our earlier report.

Attention, here is a report from the capital: Our combatants in the capital report that they have besieged the area between the intersection of the Northern Highway and North 5th Avenue and the 1st Ifantry Brigade. [as heard] Our forces have occupied positions in that area and Northern Avenue near Panama Street. They have attacked all positions in the northern area.

Attention, attention: In the capital, in the area adjacent to the 1st Infantry Brigade, we recovered rifles, machineguns, grenades, and other materiel.

Attention, attention: There are also reports of very successful attacks in Escalon neighborhood. Our comrades are reporting from the capital that a National Police truck, which was leaving the Monserrat garrison, was ambushed. We are told that this ambushed truck was going to reinforce staff installations in Arce neighborhood.

People Urged To Stay Home

PA1211152389 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1415 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] The Armed Forces Joint Command is asking Salvadoran citizens to please be calm and remain at home. If they see any suspicious-looking people or suspicious activity, they are asked to please advise the nearest military garrison or dial 123. They are also urged to refrain from traveling in the streets, because the terrorist criminals are using pick-up trucks to harass personnel at some roadblocks. This could cause problems for people attempting to go home or anywhere else.

Therefore, please avoid travelling in the streets. Remain wherever you are, whether in an office, a restaurant, a workshop, or at home. Please remain wherever you are.

Venceremos on Nationwide Action

PA1211153389 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1446 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Radio Venceremos is about to join in a nationwide revolutionary network with Radio Farabundo Marti, which will consist of four shortwave frequencies and two FM frequencies.

Your close attention, please. We report the following to our whole people. Attention Salvadoran people, local and international press:

We report that on Saturday, 11 November, the FMLN began the nationwide military action called: Out With the Fascists; Febe Elizabeth Is Alive, in the country's 14 departments, in San Salvador, and in the departmental capitals.

Comrade FMLN fighters: The blood of the popular movement's heroes and martyrs, the blood of our heroes and martyrs in this national military campaign will become a flag under which we will fight for our people's democratic rights. We will march for land for the peasants, for an end to repression and respect for human rights. Under those banners of our heroes and martyrs, we will fight for the shoeless and the hungry; for a liberated homeland; for the departure of La Tandona [name given to 1966 graduates of Captain Gerardo Barrios Military Academy]. The FMLN reiterates to the nation that the doors to a political solution are open but that we will first evict La Tandona through that door. We will evict the death squad murderers through it.

FMLN fighters in our four battlefronts: Let us devote our full courage, determination, discipline, nerve, and heroism to following the banner Febe Elizabeth raised with so much courage and nerve.

Therefore, Radio Venceremos informs our people that we are fighting in all of the nation's territory. We are fighting in San Salvador, San Miguel, Santa Ana, Usulutan, the Sacatecoluca and San Vicente areas, and in various departmental capitals. We have seized control of main highways and attacked garrisons of detachments and brigades in the course of the nationwide military maneuver called Out With the Fascists; Febe Elizabeth Is Alive.

FMLN on Fighting in San Miguel

PA1211161989 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1513 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] We have learned that the 3d Infantry Brigade in San Miguel has suffered 14 dead and 8 wounded. We have seized 14 rifles, an M-79 grenade launcher, and an M-60 machinegun.

Meanwhile, from Mejicanos we have learned that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] maintains control of San Sebastian neighborhood and Ciudad Delgado. The National Guard garrison in Ciudad Delgado continues to be harassed. We have already inflicted 10 casualties on the National Guard garrison in Ciudad Delgado.

Likewise, the fighting continues in Santa Ana. The FMLN maintains control of the following important highways: Santa Ana-San Salvador, Santa Ana-Metapan, Pan-American Highway, the coastal highway, the military route, the northern trunk road, and other important highways. FMLN fighters are present on all those highways.

Rebels 'To Facilitate' Red Cross

PA1211164789 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1451 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] All our fighters have been instructed to facilitate the work of such groups corps as the Green Cross, Red Cross, International Red Cross Committee, and other humanitarian organizations. Our fighters are under orders to let ambulances do their work and to allow passage to newsmen throughout the country.

We ask the local and international press, the Red Cross, the Green Cross to carry large, plainly visible signs to prevent a tragedy. We also call on our fighters to continue their actions, and to greet the thousands of Salvadorans who have gone to the top [guerrilla slogan] today.

International Flights Suspended

PA1211165789 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1537 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] According to reports, international flights have been suspended in El Salvador following the attack by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] against the international airport which left three helicopters and an 0-2 [Cessna Skymaster] plane destroyed on the ground.

Airport Closure Confirmed

PA1211173289 Paris AFP in Spanish 1652 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Nov (AFP)—The Salvadoran authorities have ordered El Salvador's international airport, located in Comalapa, 60 km southwest of the capital, closed as of this morning in view of the offensive launched by the guerrillas throughout the country on Saturday night, 11 November.

Airlines have reported that the authorities have cancelled all flights to and from the Salvadoran airport.

Military sources confirmed that guerrilla columns attacked military positions near the airport early today, 12 November.

FMLN Orders Border Closing

PA1211170189 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish 1641 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] We call on international transporters not to transit through El Salvador because the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has decreed a closing of the borders with Honduras and Guatemala beginning at midnight tonight.

Your attention. We repeat: We are closing the borders with Honduras and Guatemala beginning at midnight tonight, when the nationwide transportation stoppage will begin in the course of our nationwide military maneuver, Out With the Fascists; Febe Elizabeth Is Alive.

FMLN Controls Highway

PA1211170389 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1341 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] We have a report that Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] forces have seized control of the San Salvador-Santa Ana highway, interrupting traffic along this important highway to Santa Ana. The 2d Infantry Brigade, which is located at the Santa Isabel neighborhood in Santa Ana, has been attacked, and the fighting continued throughout the city early this morning.

The information reveals that roadblocks have been built on the highway to San Salvador and the road to Tacachico. It has also been confirmed that three rifles were seized from the 2d Infantry Brigade troops.

Attention, reports from the capital confirm that fierce fighting has taken place around the 1st Infantry Brigade; and lots of rifles, machineguns, and other weapons were seized from death squad leader [Colonel Francisco] Elena Fuentes' troops at the 1st Infantry Brigade. Our men have seized the 1st Infantry Brigade troops' rifles and machineguns, while ambushes in different points of the capital have multiplied.

The Army's detachments have been immobilized so the Air Force helicopters are now being used to evacuate personnel, landing in several points of the capital which the Army cannot reach.

Meanwhile, FMLN forces attacked a police patrol car in the capital, annihilated all the passengers, and seized the vehicle.

Cristiani Addresses Nation

PA1211172689 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1628 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Address to the nation by President Alfredo Cristiani in San Salvador—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...address you on this occasion to explain the situation which has arisen, a reprehensible situation caused by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] which once again is endangering the lives of the civilian population in El Salvador.

We believe it is unjustifiable, under any circumstances, for the FMLN to carry out this type of action, which is not a military action, knowing that a peace process is under way. These are actions that go... [changes thought] the Salvadoran people are always the ones who pay most dearly for the FMLN's irrational attitude. This is proved by the deplorable incident that occurred yesterday morning, when two small children—4 years old and 1 year old—died as a result of the FMLN's irrational actions.

We believe, Salvadoran people, that the peace process is irreversible and that it should occur, and it has been supported—not only by you, as people who demand peace and tranquillity, but also by the international community—throughout these months. You have been the best witnesses of the efforts exerted by your government at the international level and of the support, the undeniable support received from all the nations who are friends of El Salvador. Actions like the ones the FMLN is trying to carry out are no longer justifiable.

We would like to thank you this morning for the way in which you, who are part of the Salvadoran people, have behaved. We cannot but state our gratitude for the many statements we have been hearing through the national network which began last night, particularly the support you have given to your Armed Forces.

The Armed Forces are bent on stopping the terrorists and protecting you, meaning the civilian population. The Armed Forces are a professional corps; and the Armed Forces are prepared to counter any irrational FMLN action—even this one, which is only being carried out for publicity purposes with the support of the Sandinist government, which is issuing false statements through a network that has been established between Radio Sandino and Radio Venceremos.

Salvadoran people, our Armed Forces control the situation. The Armed Forces have been able to do this thanks to your support and cooperation; and the terrorists will be forced to gather in increasingly smaller places. We believe that the Armed Forces will definitely control the situation in a short time. However, it is necessary to continue your support. The Armed Forces do not want under any circumstances to endanger the life of even one single civilian, but they will see to it that the terrorists receive what they deserve on this occasion, when they have caused so much damage to the population itself. We believe it is necessary for you to heed the call not to go out on to the streets; stay at home or at the residence in which you are right now—even if it is not your own—because it is now a matter of time. I repeat, we do not want any more casualties as a result of the FMLN's irrational attitude.

The Armed Forces exist to protect you, and that is what they want to do. However, the Armed Forces must also carry out their constitutional duty, which is to counter the terrorists who are the ones causing so many problems for our country and for you, Salvadoran people.

We regret the fact that 7 innocent persons have died and 23 have been injured. These are persons who yesterday were probably thinking about enjoying themselves with their families and who today are dead as a result of those irrational actions. The Armed Forces want to protect your lives as best they can. Please, Salvadoran people, remain inside your homes. Do not go out on the streets, especially in the areas where sporadic incidents are still being reported. We feel that it is necessary that you remain calm and always trust the Armed Forces. This situation is going to be controlled. It is going to be controlled, and we are going to find those responsible for all the harm caused.

I have also summoned and met with the Cabinet. I believe that it is always necessary to analyze the attitude of the government and Armed Forces within our country's legal framework. I believe that this is the time for the terrorists to know that there are laws to fight their irrational actions. We are studying whether it will be necessary to implement a state of siege and a curfew. Later we will advise you of the decision the ministers reach so that you will be informed. I believe that if a state of siege and a curfew are discussed, it is precisely to protect you, to protect the civilians from the irrational FMLN terrorists. That is the only reason for this. These measures are the tools that our state of law offers for the government and Armed Forces to protect your lives so that we will no longer have to regret incidents such as the ones we have seen the past 2 days.

We believe that your attitude deserves our recognition and the recognition of all the peoples of the world. Everyone has seen that the Salvadoran people love democracy and freedom and do not want more violence, and under no circumstances do they support these irrational actions carried out by the FMLN.

Salvadoran people, the Armed Forces and the people will again win. They will triumph over the FMLN terrorists. We ask you to continue supporting us, that you continue to give us the opportunity to act effectively , without endangering more civilian lives. Throughout the day we will continue to report on the situation, and we repeat, the Armed Forces will control the situation shortly.

Thank you for your attention and your effective cooperation. Rest assured that your Armed Forces and your government will respond as you have ordered. Thank you.

FMLN Issues Instructions

PA1211175189 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1628 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front General Command in El Salvador on 12 November]

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] General Command issues the following orders:

1. As of 0000 [0600 GMT] on Monday, 13 November, land transportation throughout the national territory is suspended.

2. As of the release of this communique, all gas stations must close, and all sale of fuel must be stopped.

3. Those persons who live near garrisons must evacuate their homes and leave the area because these are combat areas.

4. Those workers repairing power lines must suspend this activity immediately. The destroyed electric towers have been mined.

5. All Red Cross and relief institutions vehicles and the local and foreign press vehicles must carry visible signs identifying them, and under no circumstances may these vehicles transport soldiers.

This General Command orders all our fighters and units to contact the people, drivers, gas station owners, and members of the relief institutions to advise them of the aforementioned orders and see to it that they are obeyed.

Out with the fascists, Febe Elizabeth lives!

FMLN General Command.

[Signed] Commanders Joaquin Villalobos, Shafik Jorge Handal, Eduardo Sancho, Salvador Sanchez Seren, Francisco Jovel.

El Salvador, 12 November 1989

FMLN: Helicopters Strafe Zacamil

PA1211183089 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1739 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Radio Venceremos has just learned that Air Force helicopters are strafing and firing rockets at the Zacamil neighborhood. The report adds that a house was destroyed and civilians wounded by a rocket fired from an Air Force helicopter. We are advising the international community and our people of the genocidal nature of the desperate actions that the Air Force is taking.

We repeat: Salvadoran Air Force helicopters have fired rockets and destroyed homes that belong to the poor in the Zacamil neighbhorhood.

It is now 1141 [1741 GMT] and we have just learned that house-to-house and building-to-building fighting is going on in the Zacamil neighborhood of San Salvador.

FMLN Reports Low Army Morale

PA1211185789 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1806 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] This is Radio Venceremos reporting that at 1206 [1806 GMT] fighting continues in several areas of San

Salvador and throughout the country. We report that in San Salvador the Army is showing signs of low morale. They are refusing to advance toward the barricades, trenches, and FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] positions in several areas of San Salvador. We are hereby confirming that our forces have inflicted hundreds of dead and wounded during the first hours of our national military maneuver: Out with the fascists, Febe Elizabeth lives!

As we reported earlier, the cordon around the university campus has been widened, and the soldiers have withdrawn to the Los Heroes Boulevard. There is also heavy fighting in Soyapango and practically all the neighborhoods in that area. Our forces maintain positions in Ayutuxtepeque, Universitaria Norte neighborhood, Zacamil neighborhood, and other areas in north and south San Salvador. In Soyapango, two helicopters were damaged this morning by our anti-aircraft fire.

Meanwhile, a group of our military chiefs have given a news conference in Metropoli neighborhood, territory under the control of the FMLN. The sabotage continues and large areas of the capital city are reporting power outages.

All international flights to El Salvador were suspended following the attack on the Comalapa base where, as we reported earlier, three helicopters and one or two planes were destroyed.

At the moment the U.S. television stations are showing clips of what is going on in El Salvador, and they carried a report and clips on the FMLN news conference held in areas held by our forces.

Regarding the situation around the country, we have received confirmation that fighting continues in Zacatecoluca, San Miguel, Usulutan, Santa Ana, and other areas in eastern El Salvador. In San Miguel, our comrades reported annihilating 14 soldiers and seizing 14 rifles and other war equipment. This morning, fighting erupted in Sensuntepeque and Mercedes Umana.

Envoy's Daughter Wounded

PA1211195589 Paris AFP in Spanish 1711 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Nov (AFP)—The daughter of the Egyptian ambassador to El Salvador, who has been identified by the Red Cross as Nadina Al-Kashif, was wounded here on 11 November during heavy clashes between Army troops and Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) guerrillas.

This report was confirmed by Salvadoran Red Cross spokesman Carlos Lopez, who said that Nedina Elkaches was wounded near the presidential residence.

It was first reported that the wounded woman was the Israeli ambassador's daughter, but this news was denied today.

Lopez added that a foreigner named Erika Suleman, presumably a German national, was killed in the same incident.

Both were traveling in a car that was apparently caught in crossfire between guerrillas and soldiers.

The Red Cross spokesman reported that the Egyptian diplomat's daughter, who was shot twice in the chest, underwent emergency surgery in a capital city hospital, and this morning "her status is delicate, but she is out of danger."

Further on Nationwide Fighting

PA1211201789 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1922 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] The following is a last-minute report from San Salvador. It has just been confirmed that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has consolidated positions around the 1st Infantry Brigade's San Carlos Barracks. It is now 1322 [1922 GMT], and we confirm that our forces maintain positions around the 1st Infantry Brigade, headquarters for [Colonel Francisco] Elena Fuentes' death squads. During our clashes with the soldiers we have seized weapons. In Ayutuxtepeque, Dolores neighborhood, we seized an M-60 machinegun. Attention: We also captured two prisoners of war. Ayutuxtepeque is located in the northern sector of the capital city. The northern sector of the city is practically under the control of our forces.

Another report from San Salvador advises that the Mejicanos and Cuscatancingo National Police garrisons are under siege. The Mejicanos and Cuscatancingo National Police garrisons are also located in the northern sector of the capital. It has just been reported that the National Policemen in Cuscatancingo have suffered 14 casualties. Our forces also seized a G-3 rifle and inflicted three casualties on the Cuscatancingo civil defense. We have also learned that the government forces suffered seven casualties in the Panama neighborhood, Mejicanos area, and that two M-15 rifles were seized.

Radio Veneceremos has also learned that our forces captured a soldier and inflicted four casualties on 2nd Avenue North. Our forces maintain positions around the 1st Infantry Brigade on the North Freeway and 5th Avenue North.

We just heard that a few minutes ago our forces dislodged the soldiers who were on Buenavista Hill, Cuscatancingo. We repeat: A few minutes ago our forces set up positions on Buenavista Hill, Cuscatancingo near San Salvador. We have also learned that 5 minutes ago, the Cuscatancingo civil defense was occupied and more that 20 backpacks were seized. The Cuscatancingo civil defense headquarters is in our hands following heroic combats waged by FMLN fighters. We repeat: The Cuscatancingo civil defense headquarters is in the hands of the FMLN.

Early this morning five rifles were seized in Escalon neighborhood, the neighborhood of the rich. We repeat: We seized five rifles and destroyed two patrol cars in this neighborhood, where the oligarchs live.

Venceremos Reports Bombings

PA1211214389 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish 1957 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Salvadoran, Central American, Latin American brothers: you are listening to Radio Venceremos, the voice of people who are carrying out a determined struggle to attain democracy. We report to our fighters that have been able to tune in, to all our people and the people of the world, that the FLMN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] forces have conducted more than 18 hours of heroic combat in San Salvador, the country's main cities, and on the highways. Our men have so far downed two helicopters and destroyed three more helicopters that were on land. This brings the total number of helicopters taken out of combat to five. We have also damaged two more Army armed vehicles which brings the total to half a dozen. These numbers have been confirmed. We have also destroyed 12 light tanks.

Our personnel have taken control of the municipal mayors' offices in several locations throughtout the country, including the capital city. In San Salvador we have also taken several prisoners of war. They are part of the repressive forces of the National Police and the Belloso Battalion. We have also confiscated a large supply of war materiel from the fascists enemy forces. These weapons are now in the hands of our people and are now going to be used to shoot the fascists. These weapons are in the hands of people who are willing to use them to attain justice for the murders of Febe Elizabeth Velasquez, other cooperativists, the 10 union leaders, and Msgr Arnulfo Romero. These weapons in the hands of the people are a guarantee for justice, democracy, and peace.

Attention, attention, this is a last-minute report received by Radio Venceremos. Attention Salvadorans and press agencies that are monitoring our guerrilla radio station. We have received reports that bombings continue in San Salvador. Indiscriminate bombing continues in San Salvador. We have received reports of indiscriminate bombing in Zacamil, Soyapango, and San Marcos neighborhoods. Thousands of people live in these areas. These neighborhoods are densely populated. We also received the report that a death squad headed by Colonel Francisco Elena Fuentes has again taken actions against a civilian population just because they are unable to combat our personnel. This squad entered the Salvadoran University from the area where the 1st Infantry Brigade is located. We must note that the university is near the 1st Infantry Brigade headquarters. They captured 13 civilians, blindfolded, tied, and took them into that military headquarters.

Elena Fuentes—that repudiated murderer, that assassin gorilla—cowardly attacks the civilian population as he is unable to combat the people's armed personnel. Fuentes is unable to strike back so he attacks mothers and union members. This is what this two-bit colonel is accustomed to doing. He strikes out at the people. Let him come out and fight the rebels in San Salvador. Our people are sick and tired of death squads, poverty, repression, and fascist totalitarianism. We are totally decided and firmly determined to overcome the fascist La Tandona officers. Salvadoran people: as one strong fist, let us all join together and strike the fascists. Let's take it to the hilt.

Defense Minister Addresses Nation

PA1211215689 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 2005 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Speech by Defense Minister General Rafael Humberto Larios Lopez; place not given—live]

[Text] Brave Salvadoran people, on this occasion and as defense and public security minister, professional soldier, and a Salvadoran citizen, I am very pleased to be able to bring you this message. Above all, this message conveys our most respectful and thoughful greetings to the Salvadoran people and our hopes that, during this troubled time, you will remain calm and have confidence and faith in your Armed Forces.

A few moments ago, you heard the voice of the first soldier of our glorious Armed Forces, the voice of the president of the Republic and general commander of the Armed Forces. At this time, I wish to express the feelings of each and every member of the Armed Forces, of the institution that at this moment is being institutionally challenged. We, as soldiers born of this people to serve this people, express our solidarity with that message of confidence, security, and hope sent by the president of the Republic.

Everyone has heard about what has happened in our country in the past 48 hours. No conscientious citizen, no real Salvadoran, is unaware of the aggression to which we have once again been subjected by the FMLN's [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Force] treacherous terrorist forces. Evidently, this action, this terrororist action, is only aimed at causing pain and sorrow for the people and at destroying the real feelings, inspiration, and will of the people. On this occasion, the Armed Forces step forward to defend the people, the people who are demanding the obliteration of these terrorist and cowardly forces.

The attitude of our courageous people, the attitude of the people who today are writing one of the most brilliant pages in our history, creates an opportunity for the Armed Forces, guarantor of security, order, and tranquility, to say: Salvadoran people, the Armed Forces are with you; the Armed Forces assume their professional duty of defending the most sacred interests of our homeland, of our country, El Salvador.

The Salvadoran Armed Forces, as an institution, have never forgotten their duty and today reiterate their absolute willingness and determination to make the ultimate sacrifice if this becomes necessary, so that you, Salvadoran people, can aspire to a future full of happiness and well-being.

We praise the determination of the people. We applaud and congratulate the people for their determination and the stoicism with which they, the brave Salvadoran citizens, have confronted these moments of tragedy and challenge.

We say: Salvadoran people, this institution—your Armed Forces—is at your side. The Armed Forces are willing to shed their blood and give their lives so that the children of our people, so that the children of our children, can aspire to a worthy, free, just, and independent life.

We wish to congratulate our people for their attitude. We wish to congratulate all the Salvadoran people because, with their words of encouragement sent to us through different means, the institution feels stronger and more willing to defend the real aspirations of the Salvadoran people.

This brave attitude—this attitude that reflects the real Salvadorans—is, without a doubt, the strongest response and the worst punishment the terrorist forces could receive.

The people are punishing the FMLN. This violence, this bloodshed caused by this terrorist aggression—specifically that blood—is precisely the inspiration we have for defeating and breaking the will to fight of this terrorist FMLN. We will prevail; we will win. First, because we have the truth; second, because we believe that, as Christians, God is with us; and third, because we have an indomitable esprit de corps as a professional army, and we are determined today—as before and as always—to defend our territory, our history, our values, our principles, and to defend and protect the dignity of each and every Salvadoran citizen.

We are deeply thankful to our people for their courageous and heroic attitude. We are deeply thankful for the encouragement the people have given the Armed Forces. We take it as a challenge, and you can rest assured, Salvadoran people, that just as I, a soldier of this fatherland and of our Armed Forces, have, all of those behind me have the same resolve to struggle and the same spirit to face—today, tomorrow, and always—the terrorist challenge to which, today and in the coming hours, we will respond by giving them a lesson in professionalism. Our attitude is one of defending and guaranteeing those rights, that spirit, and that resolve, and of defending and guaranteeing the supreme postulates contained in the constitution.

Salvadoran people, we ask for your confidence, faith, and hope in God and in the Armed Forces. Rest assured that very shortly we will have victory on our side. Thank you for the support, for the encouragement, and—Salvadoran people—receive from the Armed Forces respectful and cordial greetings, and the assurances that your Armed Forces will very soon resolve this violence imposed by international terrorism.

As the president of the Republic requested, we recommend that you remain calm and stay at home. I believe that for reasons of your own security, it is not advisable to leave your homes. The situation is being controlled slowly.

The main problems now are in the northern sector of the capital city. We believe that we will have full control of the situation within the next few hours. Meanwhile, Salvadoran people, have faith, hope, and confidence in your Armed Forces, in God and in the democratic institutions of our people. Thank you and good afternoon.

Over 100 Casualties Reported

PA1211221689 Paris AFP in Spanish 2116 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Nov (AFP)—More than 100 civilians have been wounded and at least 10 have died in the largest cities of El Salvador during clashes between soldiers and members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), who launched a violent offensive on Saturday, 11 November.

Salvadoran Red Cross sources told AFP that its members had taken 63 wounded civilians to medical centers by noon on Sunday, 12 November, and "we have reports that the Red Cross has transported an equal number of people."

Salvadoran Red Cross spokesman Carlos Lopez said that its units rescued 40 wounded in San Salvador, 10 in Usulutan, 3 in San Vicente, 3 in Zacatecoluca, and 5 in San Miguel in the eastern area of the country.

Likewise, the following deaths have been reported: Two soldiers and three guerrilla fighters in Usulutan; three soldiers and two civilians in San Miguel; and two guerrilla fighters and one soldier in San Miguel.

A Green Cross member also told a group of journalists that "there are many dead civilians and soldiers" in San Marcos and San Jacinto, located southeast of the capital and added that helicopter gunships were "indiscriminately" firing rockets.

FMLN Reports Military Advances

PA1211222489 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2035 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Here is report from the country's central zone, namely, San Salvador and the outskirts area. Play close attention. The report says that FMLN fighters, fighters of the great army of the red flag with the white star, of the workers army, which will honorably hoist our fatherland's white and blue flag....[changes thought] we report that guerrilla units attacked the CEL [Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission] in Agua Caliente, Soyapango, San Miguel Department. The attack was carried out with grenades. Our personnel are maintaining barricades from the Los Alpes neighborhood to the heart of Soyapango. The enemy has sent the Treasury

Police's Libertador Battalion to reinforce positions near the Prados de Venecia neighborhood.

During the fighting, the enemy sustained several casualties; a subsergeant was killed. The guerrilla units are maintaining control of the Bosques del Rio neighborhood, and in San Jose, Los Angeles, Unicentro, Los Conacastes areas, and El Pepeto neighborhood. In these areas, our forces inflicted 50 casualties on the fascist army, including a full section of the Paratroopers Battalion. Earlier, we reported that a Hughes-500 helicopter was damaged.

Another report from northern San Salvador indicates that guerrilla units that entered Apopa, 12 kms from San Salvador, took control of the Tical 1 and 2, Nuevo Apopa, San Andres, La Crucita, Madre Tierra, and Sierra Nuestra neighborhoods. In this sector, five casualties were inflicted on the 1st Infantry Brigade's Libertad Battalion and three casaulties on the National Guard. Fighting is raging at the center of Apopa and five more casualties were inflicted on the Paratroopers Battalion in the San Jose 2 neighbhorhood in Soyapango. One UH-1H helicopter was severly damaged in this sector. This is a last-minute report that has reached Radio Venceremos.

FMLN Claims 400 Army Casualties

PA1211230189 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2157 GMT 12 Nov 89

["War Report No. 1" issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, in El Salvador on 12 November]

[Text] Radio Venceremos now announces to our people, as well as to the national and international press, War Report No. 1 on our national military manuever.

At 2000 on 11 November [0200 GMT on 12 November], the FMLN launched the military-political plan drafted by the General Command consisting of a national military maneuver called: Out With the Fascists, Febe Elizabeth Lives!" The plan began with an attack from at least 50 directions on the enemy positions in the city of San Salvador. Since that time, our units have been waging fierce combat with the enemy forces, occupying positions in various parts of the city that we are still holding.

Other groups later joined the maneuver and attacked in the cities of San Miguel, Zacatecoluca, Usulutan, Santa Ana, Chalatenango, and the Comalapa International Airport. There were also dozens of attacks against positions in towns and highways of the country.

After 18 hours of combat, the following are the estimated results: Over 400 casualties on the Armed Forces, including killed and wounded; 12 armored vehicles have been destroyed; 3 helicopters and 1 or 2 small small airplanes were destroyed on the ground; and 2 helicopters were downed; tens of thousands of cartridges, over 50 rifles, machineguns, and other types of weapons have been recovered.

These results greatly exceed the expectations of this maneuver due to the impact and effectiveness of the fighting. Our fighters have fulfilled this part of the plan in a daring, courageous, and effective manner, proving their high combat morale. Now they must hold the positions they have taken, thus guaranteeing that the goals of the plan are achieved.

We denounce the indiscriminate bombing by the Salvadoran Air Force. We call on the people to protect themselves from the bombing. To do this, the people are counting on support and guidance from our fighters. We also call on the country's civilian population to join those who have already joined the combat or are helping our forces. We call on the soldiers and officers forced to fight against their own people to suspend the bombing, to refuse to carry out a genocidal action, and to desert and join our forces. We urge international humanitarian organizations and relief groups to help protect civilians who are being harassed by the Army or who are in any other emergency situation.

Out with the fascists! Febe Elizabeth Velasquez lives!

[Signed] FMLN General Command, El Salvador, 12 November 1989

Rebels Attack Official's Home

PA1211230589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2151 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—A guerrilla member died on Saturday 11 November while attacking the residence of Legislative Assembly Vice President Roberto Angulo, who escaped the attack unharmed.

According to witnesses, urban guerrilla members entered the right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) leader's residence where several shots were fired, but there are no official reports on the casualties.

The residence is located in Campestre neighborhood, which is located in northwestern San Salvador, close to Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani's residence and the Presidential House, which were also attacked last evening.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce confirmed the attack on Cristiani's residence, but the president escaped unharmed and is in a safe place.

Angulo's neighbors said that the deputy was not injured because he managed to escape to a neighbor's house, from where several people opened fire against the rebels.

One of the attacking guerrillas died in front of Angulo's residence and his body was found this morning.

Congress President Ricardo Alvarenga Valdivieso's house which is located in Miramonte neighborhood in western San Salvador was also attacked.

The rebels also attacked the "General Arce" neighborhood, a military housing complex, as well as the 1st

Infantry Brigade headquarters and the National Police headquarters in "Zacamil," one of the most densely-populated neighborhoods in northern San Salvador.

FMLN Reports Air Base Attack

PA1211233689 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2239 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Attention, here is a report from San Salvador. The FMLN has attacked the Ilopagango Air Force Base with 81-mm mortars. We repeat: FMLN forces carried out an attack with 81-mm mortars against the Ilopango Air Force Base. The report states there were two attacks with 81-mm mortars, and the projectiles hit inside the Ilopango Air Force Base. As of yet, we do not have information on the number of casualties inflicted and the damage caused by this attack on the Ilopango Air Force Base located a few kilometers from San Salvador.

Further on San Miguel Clashes

PA1211234889 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2218 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] We have received a last minute report from San Miguel. We have been informed that, pay special attention, during clashes with the enemy in La Esmeralda neighborhood in San Miguel, our rebel army confiscated three 22-mm rifles, two 38-caliber pistols, one 22-mm pistol, and one Czech pistol. On 6th East Street of the city, an enemy officer and a sergeant were killed and two soldiers were captured. We repeat, two soldiers were captured at 6th East Street in San Miguel. One of the soldiers surrendered to the people because he was wounded. There is a marked difference between the enemy and our guerrilla army. When fascist troops capture wounded rebels in San Salvador, they question them first at the National Guard and 1st Infantry Brigade headquarters and then murder them. Our army respects the Geneva agreements.

We continue our San Miguel reporting. At 1030 today, we destroyed a light tank on 6th North Avenue thereby increasing the number of light tanks that we have destroyed all over the country. Other reports that have been received by Radio Venceremos indicate that the total number of casualties in Zacatecoluca as of 1618, is 45, including 2 section chiefs. Heavy fighting continues in Zacatecoluca neiborhoods. In Soyapango, where we had received a report of 50 casualties, we have now been informed that the number of casualties inflicted on the enemy has increased to 70. We have inflicted 70 casualties on Air Force Commander General Juan Rafael Bustillo's criminal Air Force, including an officer. We have inflicted 10 casualties on the Treasury Police forces. We have received reports that three helicopters were damaged in Soyapango where clashes have ensued and continue at 1619. Reports from San Salvador and San Miguel indicate that at this time clashes are increasing in intensity in both places. A few minutes ago, we received a report from San Miguel that our comrades were in good spirits and forcing the 3d Infantry Brigade troops to withdraw.

Cristiani Declares State of Seige

PA1311002189 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Speech by President Alfredo Cristiani; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Good afternoon, Salvadoran people. On 19 March, our government was elected by the Salvadoran people, who demanded political stability, peaceful coexistence, as well as judicial and social security in our country. These irrational actions that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has unleashed in the last few days, and particularly as of yesterday, make it necessary for the government of the Republic to take action, to take firm action within the legal framework of our country.

We must accept the people's mandate of 19 March, and the government must now respond with firm action, within the legal framework. We must respond because the FMLN is attacking the civilian population—more than anyone else—in a brutal and savage manner. The Armed Forces of El Salvador are controlling the situation, and they have controlled the situation.

However, these FMLN terrorists, who already feel they have been defeated by the Armed Forces, are now beginning to carry out indiscriminate acts of terrorism. They are even going as far as to enter innocent homes and pressure families who are trying to live through these harsh times all Salvadorans have experienced.

That is why we must act firmly but within the law. To this effect, Salvadoran people, the Council of Ministers met at 1400 in the Presidential House to try to reach a solution that we are completely sure is what the Salvadoran people want. When we sat down to talk with the members of the cabinet, we recalled Article 2 of our Constitution, which says: All persons have a right to life, physical and moral integrity, freedom, security, work, property, and the right to be protected and have their lives and possessions defended.

That is why the Council of Ministers this afternoon made a decision based on the legal mechanisms granted to it by the Constitution. First, Salvadoran people, I will read Article 29 of the Constitution, which reads as follows:

Article 29. In cases of war, invasion of the territory, rebellion, sedition, catastrophe, epidemic, or other general calamity, or in cases of grave disruption of the public order, the guarantees established in Articles 5, Article 6, subparagraph 1, Article 7, subparagraph 1, and Article 24 can be suspended, except when referring to meetings or groups for religious, cultural, economic, and sports purposes. The suspension can affect the entire country or part of it and will be done through a decree issued by the legislative branch or the executive branch, as appropriate. The guarantees contained in Article 12, Subparagraph 2, and in Article 13, Subparagraph 2, of the Constitution can be suspended, when the legislative branch so decides by a three-fourths majority vote of the elected deputies, but the administrative suspension [detencion administrativa] should not be longer than 15 days.

The suspension of the constitutional guarantees will not exceed 30 days. Once this period expires, the suspension can be extended for a similar period of time, through a new decree, if the circumstances that led to it continue. If that decree is not issued, the suspended guarantees will be fully restored.

As you will see, this Article states that it is the legislative branch or the executive branch, as appropriate... [changes thought] For that purpose we act based on Article 167, No. 6, which reads: It is up to the Council of Ministers to suspend and restore the constitutional guarantees mentioned in Article 29 of this Constitution if the Legislative Assembly is not in session.

In the first case, the Council of Ministers will immediately notify the Legislative Assembly's Directorate Board of the reasons for such a measure and the actions that were carried out regarding the measure.

Salvadoran people, in accordance with the judicial norms stated in our Constitution, today the Council of Ministers has decided to declare a state of seige as a measure to protect the Salvadoran people, who are being unjustly attacked by irrational and savage FMLN terrorism, which the government of the Republic cannot and must not allow. Tomorrow we will submit to the Legislative Assembly's Directorate Board the minutes of the meeting in which the Council of Ministers today decided to suspend the constitutional rights stated in Article 29 of the Constitution of the Republic.

In this regard, we wish to issue an appeal to political parties. This is not the time to remain doubtful. Now is the time for all those who intend to work within a democratic system to state—categorically—that they abide by and support the Republic's institutions and the democratic process that allows them to work and peacefully wage a struggle to attain power. We can no longer allow political parties to question whether or not the FMLN is or is not trying to do away with the rights that the Salvadoran people have demanded time and again in a democratic way.

We also urge the diplomatic corps to appraise their respective peoples and governments of the true nature of the FMLN and how it wants to subjugate the Salvadoran people.

They must also listen and condemn Daniel Ortega for what he has been saying these days. He should be condemned because he has been trying to confuse the international community by saying that in El Salvador the government has been carrying out indiscriminate bombings. However, everybody here knows that the FMLN has been planting bombs, and so far 8 civilians have been killed and more than 100 wounded as a result of that indiscriminate terrorism.

It is necessary to condemn Ortega and hold him responsible for sending the weapons used to kill and bleed the Salvadoran people to death. He should no longer be allowed to continue these actions while trying to hide them and deceive the international community.

It is also time to openly condemn the FMLN for its irrational actions. Everybody knows that since the first day of this administration, the government of the Republic offered to begin a dialogue process. It offered to solve this problem through rational and peaceful means, since that is what the Salvadoran people wanted and what they demanded on 19 March [election day].

We can no longer allow FMLN leaders to roam freely throughout the world attempting to disinform the international community, which instead of falling into the trap of disinformation should categorically condemn the FMLN's irrational actions [words indistinct].

We are not issuing this call to the diplomatic corps on behalf of the (?Salvadoran) Government. We are making this call on behalf of the Salvadoran people, who are subject to the savagery of indiscriminate terrorism. We issue this call because we believe and are convinced that the Salvadoran people do not deserve this fate. The Salvadoran people do not deserve to be attacked with terrorist bombs. They should not be facing the threats the FMLN is trying to carry out. The Salvadoran people have shown the world during these long 10 years that they want peace, democracy, progress, and not to live under systems already obsolete in history, that are no longer justified or accepted in a time when the world is evolving toward peace and democracy.

On behalf of the people, we are asking you to condemn the FMLN's irrational attitude.

We also want to inform the FMLN that the Armed Forces are supporting their people and will never permit terrorist actions to lead to anything but the destruction of that movement that has tainted our history. We want them to know that the way to solve problems in El Salvador is through reasoning and peaceful means and that the government of the Republic will continue trying to achieve peace as soon as possible and within that framework: through reasoning and peaceful means.

Salvadoran people, again we urge you to remain calm. The Armed Forces are controlling the situation. We will soon live normal lives again. However, at this time we ask all of you to support the peace process, to join forces in order to achieve peace. The FMLN should feel the people's pressure against its irrational actions.

We are sure that with you—the Salvadoran people, Armed Forces, and government—we will achieve peace in El Salvador. God bless you all.

Army Reports 127 Killed, 155 Wounded

PA1311004789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran Army announced today that this weekend's guerrilla offensive has resulted in 127 dead and 155 wounded. The rebels have said they inflicted over 400 casualties on the government forces.

According to the Armed Forces Press Committee (Coprefa), the rebels of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) have sustained 148 casualties (93 dead and 55 wounded).

According to Coprefa, there are 26 dead and 65 wounded among the Army ranks and 8 dead and 35 wounded among the civilians.

The guerrillas' clandestine Radio Venceremos reported 400 military casualties, without specifying the figures on the dead and wounded and without mentioning casualties among the rebels.

Defense Minister on Curfew

PA1311005689 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 2315 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Statement by Defense Minister General Rafael Humberto Larios in San Salvador; live—broadcast in progress]

[Text] ....principles and explanations given by the president of the Republic and commander general of the Armed Forces and in compliance with the Council of Ministers' mandate, the Armed Forces hereby announce the procedures for the curfew as a result of the suspension of constitutional rights.

The curfew essentially seeks to prevent any abuse or disrespect of the Salvadoran people's dignity and physical welfare, resulting from the Marxist-Leninist terrorists' aggression. Noting this and seeking to strictly enforce the curfew, the following measures are established:

1. The curfew will be in effect based on the following schedule: From 2000 on 12 November until 0600 on 13 November, and from 1800 to 0600 starting on 13 November until notified otherwise. Also, the curfew's schedule restricts all vehicle and pedestrian movement nationwide. The following are exempt from the measure: Military vehicles; vehicles belonging to national and international humanitarian organizations such as the Salvadoran Red Cross, Green Cross, International Red Cross, and hospital ambulances which will attend only emergency cases. An authorization will be issued by the corresponding department commanders who will act as the garrison commanders [Jefe De Plaza] in the department capitals, effective today, thereby enabling these organizations to carry out their work in strict compliance with the measures.

The same procedures will be followed in the municipalities where the authorization will be granted by the corresponding military authority.

Furthermore, Colonel Juan Carlos Carrillo Schlenker, director general of the National Guard, is appointed garrison commander in San Salvador effective today.

Salvadoran people, the Salvadoran Armed Forces salute you with respect and admiration. We urge you to call telephone number 123 if you have any questions, and we will gladly answer them. Thank you for your attention.

Armed Forces Communique

PA1311015989 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0058 GMT 13 Nov 89

["Press Communique" issued by the Armed Forces]

[Text] The Armed Forces of El Salvador hereby reports to the citizens in general that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] terrorists have been repelled by our courageous soldiers and that there are now only a few dispersed groups of looting criminals. The Armed Forces report that in due time they will announce statistics on the casualties inflicted by the terrorists among the civilian population, as well as the members of the Army who have fallen in the line of their sacred and constitutional duty. In due time, the Armed Forces will announce the number of terrorists killed in their efforts to bring sorrow and mourning to the Salvadoran people.

The Armed Forces also request that the people follow instructions at the military checkpoints through which they must pass in order to prevent any unnecessary incidents. The Armed Forces also call on the people to remain calm.

In the loyal fulfillment of their duties, the Armed Forces of the Republic are determined to carry out this struggle so that democracy will not be hindered by these criminal terrorists, who in recent hours have brought more sorrow, mourning, and grief to the Salvadoran people.

FMLN Issues Communique

PA1311014189 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0029 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Communique from the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, General Command issued in El Salvador on 12 November]

[Text] The FMLN General Command reports:

1. On Saturday 11 November we began the national military campaign called "Out With the Fascists! Febe Elizabeth Lives!" This campaign immersed the Armed Forces High Command and the Cristiani administration in confusion and insecurity from the beginning; and successfully continues in its 2d day of fighting.

2. The FMLN fighters are using all their intelligence, energy, unselfishness, and patriotism so that a just peace can be achieved in the country. This peace will be based on an authentic democracy designed to counter the genocidal reply the military dictatorship has responded with.

3. Salvadorans who have withstood a bloody military dictatorship for almost 60 years see more clearly today the need to develop a legitimate defense against the repression which has been increased by the political, economic, and military hostility of Alfredo Cristiani's administration; and they understand the need to support and join the struggle for our country's liberty.

4. We urge the honest and patriotic members of the Armed Forces to seriously reflect on the fact that they are not only facing the guerrilla army of the FMLN, but a whole sector which claims its right to rebel. We specifically urge the soldiers and officers in the battlefield to understand that our struggle is not being personally waged against you, but rather against the antipopular interests which are being defended by the Armed Forces on the fascists orders.

5. The governments and peoples of the world are closely following the latest events in El Salvador and their contribution will be valuable in achieving a national consensus based on democracy and a solution among Salvadorans with no foreign intervention. The international community must help achieve a just and durable peace, thus avoiding more bloodshed.

6. The FMLN General Command wants to report the atrocities being perpetrated against the civilian population by the Armed Forces which are indiscriminately bombing densely populated areas in San Salvador, and issuing death threats against all the political and social groups. This proves the regime's weakness and shows its antipopular and antipatriotic position.

7. We also urge the international community to help create special zones where children, the elderly, and wounded people from the battle zones can be evacuated.

Out With the Fascists! Febe Elizabeth Lives!
FMLN General Command
Commanders Salvador Sanchez Ceren, Commander Francisco Jovel, Commander Joaquin Villalobos, Commander Shafik Jorge Handal, Commander Eduardo Sancho.
El Salvador, 12 November 1989.

Union: Army Attacking Civilians

PA1311021089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0056 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Nov (EFE)—The Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation (FENASTRAS) today accused its country's army of "unleashing violence against the civilian population by dropping rockets and bombs from Salvadoran Air Force airplanes and helicopters and leaving a very large number of victims."

In a communique delivered to Mexican news agency "NOTIMEX," FENASTRAS called on "international organizations and humanitarian groups to declare places attacked by the army protection zones to avoid further bloodshed."

Members of the Army and the Alfredo Cristiani government have called FENASTRAS a front organization of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, (FMLN).

On 31 October, terrorists attacked the FENASTRAS building in San Salvador killing several union leaders and destroying the building. FENASTRAS members in Mexico said death squads run by the Salvadoran Armed Forces through the National Information Department were responsible for the attack. On the night of 11 November, the Salvadoran guerrillas launched an offensive against military and government objectives.

Coprefa Says FMLN 'Looting'

PA1311021889 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0122 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Communique issued by the Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee in San Salvador on 12 November]

[Text] The Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee [Coprefa] has informed the people of El Salvador that FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] terrorists have been engaged in looting and acts of vandalism in areas around San Salvador because they have been unable to confront the Army, which has dismantled the rebel plan to create a state of rebellion.

According to reports, groups of vandals have sacked some shopping centers, specifically in Soyapango, San Salvador Department, as part of their strategy to cover the withdrawal of the FMLN terrorists.

In this respect, the Armed Forces soldiers are committed to ridding the zone of these criminal terrorists who are seeking international publicity for their cause. The Salvadoran people must be assured that their Armed Forces soldiers are responding professionally to the terrorist provocation, since that is their job, to defend the interests of the people and society. For that reason, the people must remain calm. The Armed Forces reiterates its call to the people to remain in their homes so as not to fall prey to FMLN terrorist groups and to heed the curfew order, which will go into effect from 0800 tonight until 0600 tomorrow.

Rebel Leader on Goals

PA1311030689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0146 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—The Salvadoran guerrillas assured today they have "consolidated" four of the most densely populated neighborhoods in northern San Salvador where some 300,000 persons live.

Commander Amilcar, one of the rebel chiefs who has occupied the Zacamil neighborhood, told ACAN-EFE that he and his men came to San Salvador "prepared, and with sufficient ammunition to remain for several days."

In a general assessment of the guerrilla offensive, the young commander said that the Army "cannot enter" the "area under rebel control," but it is attacking the rebels from the National Police headquarters and using helicopter gunships.

"However, the people have the trump card (for the success of the offensive)," he added.

Amilcar, who is 26 years old and looks like a student, was walking down the hallway of one of the cramped five-story apartment buildings in Zacamil while explaining that the goal of the rebel offensive is "to seek options for building peace in El Salvador."

He added that the guerrillas seek "to disrupt dialogue conditions, and enter the talks with a political and military advantage so that the government will agree with us on what the people want: Democracy, a people's economic policy, and a purge in the Armed Forces, among other things."

The guerrillas and the government of El Salvador have held two meetings in recent months, the first one in Mexico and the second one in Costa Rica. A third meeting was to be held shortly in Venezuela, but the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] announced that it will not attend.

The FMLN launched the most important military offensive since 1981 on 11 November, attacking 50 military positions, 20 of them in San Salvador.

In the first 24 hours, the offensive has caused nearly 300 casualties (127 dead and 155 wounded) according to the Army, and over 400 casualties according to the guerrillas.

The offensive has been named "Out With the Fascists! Febe Elizabeth Lives!" in homage to a trade union leader killed 13 days ago along with nine other workers in a dynamite explosion in the capital city. The action was attributed to ultrarightist death squads.

Armed with an automatic AK-47 rifle, Amilcar said that the FMLN "has consolidated the Zacamil, Cuscatancingo, Mejicanos, and Panama neighborhoods, and we have besieged the 1st Infantry Brigade."

All the places he mentioned are in northern San Salvador, where the bloodiest clashes between the guerrillas and the government troops have taken place.

At nightfall on 12 November and prior to the curfew that begins at 2000 (0200 GMT), the residents of Zacamil were outside their homes carrying candles as there is no electricity.

Amilcar assured that the guerrillas have inflicted at least 18 casualties on the Armed Forces in that area and have seized about 20 rifles and 1 M-60 machinegun.

"This offensive is a military and political achievement. As a result of the closing of the Comalapa International Airport, the main airport of the country, we have succeeded in letting the world know that we are at war and are an emerging power," the rebel commander said.

Comalapa Airport, located 50 km south of San Salvador, was closed "for security reasons."

Acording to the FMLN clandestine station, Radio Venceremos, the guerrilla fighters destroyed three military helicopters on the ground and caused some damage to the airports's main landing strip.

Referring to the government's decision to impose a curfew and a nationwide state of siege effective tonight, Commander Amilcar said: "We had already taken this into consideration when we launched the offensive."

The government "cannot act indiscriminately against the civilian population," Amilcar said; adding that "the citizens' rights were suspended to bomb the places taken over by our forces."

The people of Zacamil and other neighborhoods located north of the capital have lived in terror since Saturday, 11 November, when they were trapped in the crossfire between the rebels and the military, subjected to air raids and whatever threat living with the guerrillas represents.

At least two civilians have died in Zacamil and five more have been wounded, including two children, as a result of the armed clashes.

Citizens Urged To Resume Work

PA1311035789 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0314 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] Attention, attention Salvadorans: The Salvadoran Armed Forces are inviting us to show the world our steadfast determination and our desire to live in a real democracy tomorrow.

Show up at your working place. Salvadorans: Let us all go to work tomorrow with resolution and enthusiasm. Open your businesses and contribute toward forging a dignified future for all of us.

The Salvadoran Armed Forces are backing the Salvadoran people and firmly defending their desire to live in a real democracy.

The Salvadoran Armed Forces, through this national radio network, issues a general call for all Salvadorans to go to work tomorrow at the usual time to show the world our steadfast determination to live in a real democracy that members of the Salvadoran Armed Forces will defend with their lives if necessary.

Salvadorans: The Armed Forces are at your side.

Rebels Set Up Barricades

PA1311044989 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0347 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] We are receiving a report right now on the situation in San Salvador. The report says that San Salvador neighborhoods and residential areas are still under the control of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. Armed Forces official sources have admitted that some areas of San Salvador are controlled by the FMLN. The report adds that as of 2140 on 12 November, there was still tension in the city.

Some sporadic shooting was still heard, and the situation in various parts of the capital city indicated that our comrades are maintaining their positions, carrying out military engineering tasks, opening trenches, and setting up barricades with the cooperation of the San Salvador people.

Press agency reports note that there is great tension in the capital city, and apparently they are expecting [changes thought] here is a news agency report which says that early this morning, less shooting was heard because apparently each side had consolidated their position. That is what some press agencies are reporting.

We have also observed that the Armed Forces have admitted that some areas in the capital city are controlled by the FMLN. There are many vehicles scattered all over the streets of San Salvador. That is the report we have received from San Salvador, where our fighters in Zacamil and other neighborhoods and residential areas in the capital city are now receiving the support of the people who are fortifying themselves in neighborhoods.

We call on the San Salvadoran youths to go out tonight to cooperate with the FMLN fighters. Make the assassins of Msgr Romero pay dearly for every step they take against the people in the neighborhoods in San Salvador city. It has been 24, 25, nearly 26 hours since the FMLN fighters established their positions in San Salvador in view of the regime's incompetence. The regime has clearly said that it is incapable of controlling the situation, as it has had to decree a state of siege that began on the evening of 12 November in San Salvador.

Another proof of the government's weakness is the gag placed on the media. The government has not allowed the media to broadcast its newscasts. Why doesn't the government want the people to listen to newscasts in El Salvador? What is the Cristiani regime hiding? This is a question that the people are asking; they want to know the answer. The government is afraid; it does not want to inform the people about the developments or the scope of the actions carried out by the FMLN throughout national territory.

Comrade fighters: "We have already told you; this is in the bag. Your courage and determination to win has made it possible to carry out the FMLN plan as our communique issued by the General Command has said."

Comrades: "Keep it up, keep an open eye, maintain the high morale as you have done up to now, seek contact with the people, receive their cooperation in the fortifications that are being made throughout San Salvador. Let's go to the top and that's it."

Fighting Ends in Some Areas

PA1311051689 Paris AFP in Spanish 0455 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Nov (AFP)—The fighting in the northern area of San Salvador, that went on uninterrupted for 24 hours, stopped at about 2100 on Sunday, 12 November, while the government called on the people to go to work tomorrow, Monday, defying a transportation stoppage decreed by the guerrillas.

The noise of machinegun fire and grenades stopped tonight in the densely populated neighborhoods of Cuscatancingo, Mejicanos, and Soyapango where dozens of guerrillas resisted a strong counteroffensive by the Army.

Civilian sources said that the rebels entrenched in these neighborhoods had reportedly decided to fall back into safe areas, taking advantage of the difficulties government troops have been having moving in the middle of the night.

While the government established a curfew throughout the country as of 2000, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) decreed a transportation stoppage to go into effect at midnight tonight.

The rebel offensive, the most serious one since the civil war broke out in El Salvador in January 1981, has left dozens of casualties among the guerrillas, civilians, and soldiers, according to various sources.

Guatemala

Foreign Minister Pleased With ONUCA Creation

PA0911182989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1656 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 9 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The creation of the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) will strengthen the peace process in the area, according to Guatemalan Foreign Minister Angel Rivera Irias.

Rivera said: "ONUCA's presence gives a multilateral dimension to a regional problem and eliminates tensions that might exist at a bilateral level, besides strengthening the peace process in Central America."

The UN Security Council on 7 November unanimously approved the creation of a peace force, consisting of 260 unarmed troops from Canada, Spain, Colombia, the FRG, and Venezuela.

According to Rivera, ONUCA's presence will give greater importance on the efforts for peace, which have been promoted by the Central American presidents on several meetings in Esquipulas (Guatemala), in Alajuela (Costa Rica), in Costa de Sol (El Salvador), and in Tela (Honduras).

Rivera stressed that the area foreign ministers had requested the creation of a UN observer force, based on the commitments and decisions adopted by the Central American presidents .

It was agreed that the peace force, made up of unarmed troops, should be installed in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, because it is easier and faster to mobilize from there to observe any problems.

ONUCA's basic mission will be to observe the fulfillment of two of the principles or commitments of the Equipulas II agreement: not using territory for actions that might affect another state, and not to provide support for subversive movements or unconventional forces.

Rivera said that the peace force will be active mainly in Nicaragua, Honduras, and El Salvador, countries facing problems on their borders.

He said: "Guatemala does not have that type of situation, not only in not using its territory to attack others, but also regarding support for unconventional forces."

He expressed satisfaction over the creation of ONUCA "because it reveals the countries' trust and assurance to continue with the peace process, which is also positive particularly now that the cease-fire has been suspended in Nicaragua."

Rivera stressed that the creation of the group of UN observers "proves the world's concern over peace in Central America."

Guerrilla Group Threatens Ministry Heads, Mayor

PA1011225689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2202 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 10 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Education Deputy Minister Guillermo Morales reported today that the Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA), one of three Guatemalan guerrilla groups, has threatened Education Ministry officials and a mayor with death.

Morales said that the death threats were signed by ORPA, but since this is a clandestine organization, they have been considered anonymous threats. The deputy minister did not disclose the names of the officials who have been threatened.

Meanwhile, Marco Polo Villatoro, mayor of Retalhuleu, also reported that ORPA had threatened him with death and given him 2 months to leave Guatemala; otherwise, he "will be executed." Villatoro stressed that he will conclude his term of office in Retalhuleu municipality on Guatemala's southern coast, and "will not leave the country despite the threats."

ORPA, together with the Poor People's Guerrilla Army (EGP) and the Rebel Armed Forces (FAR), make up the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), the top guerrilla organization in Guatemala, since 1984.

Bomb Rocks Headquarters of Rightist Party Group

PA1111141989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1831 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 10 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—A powerful bomb exploded early this morning in the headquarters of the rightist Guatemalan National Liberation Movement [MLN], only 500 meters away from the government place. No one was injured, but there was property damage.

The police have reported that the bomb exploded at 0000 (0600 GMT) at the front door of the building. MLN leaders have said that property damage amounts to $2,000.

Special police units have found a box with dynamite. The sources said that if this dynamite had exploded, neighboring residences would have been severely damaged.

This is the first dynamite attack since August, when a wave of acts of terrorism produced dozens of casualties and much property damage in this capital.

MLN leaders have reported that Lizi Medrano, wife of Mario Sandoval, the secretary general of this rightist organization, received an anonymous phone call on the placing of the bombs inside the building. The MLN leaders said that Medrano and a guard at the MLN headquarters quickly inspected the building but found nothing.

However, a few minutes after Sandoval's wife had left the place, the powerful bomb exploded and damaged a vehicle parked in the area, the sources said.

Honduras

Army To Begin Disarming Contras 13 Nov

PA1111124289 Paris AFP in Spanish 0519 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 10 Nov (AFP)—Military sources today announced that on 13 November the Honduran Army will begin disarming the thousands of Nicaraguan "contras" established in the western part of the country as part of a preventive operation to ensure the success of the 26 November elections.

Colonel Lazaro Avila, commander of the Public Security Force (FUSEP), said that "the disarmament operation is will have no exceptions, as established by law, and we are going to carry it out so that the electoral process will be successful."

Col Avila added that Army and police personnel have already been deployed to initiate the operation, and if necessary the Air Force and Navy will also participate.

He said that the disarmament of the 13,000 contras based at the camps in Yamales in the eastern El Paraiso Department will be independent of the Tela agreements.

The contras' demobilization, agreed upon in August by the Central American presidents at the Tela summit, is currently being discussed at UN headquarters in New York, where rebel and Nicaraguan Government delegations are trying to reach an agreement on its implementation.

Newsmen Protest Attack on Radio America Reporter

PA1011022689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0131 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 9 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Newsmen and various people's organizations in Honduras held a march today to protest the 8 November attack on Honduran newsman Elan Reyes, seriously wounded by two paramilitary members.

The newsmen demanded that Honduran President Jose Azcona and General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, chief of the Armed Forces, immediately conduct an investigation to find out who perpetrated this attack.

The demonstration lasted 1 and ½ hours and concluded in front of the Presidential House, where soldiers carrying automatic rifles were guarding the area.

During the demonstration, leaders from various journalistic associations and other people's organizations demanded in their speeches the expulsion of the Nicaraguan "contras" and the U.S. troops stationed in Honduras. The newsmen and other demonstrators were carrying large posters and shouting slogans demanding "punishment for the culprits."

Elan Reyes, 24, is recovering at an Honduran hospital, where he underwent surgery for gunshot wounds from a 9-mm pistol which hit him in the abdomen and the right lung. Reyes, who works for Radio America, covers information related to foreign policy, the Nicaraguan Embassy in Tegucigalpa, and the "contras."

Newsmen warned they will remain on alert to defend at any cost the freedom of press and to demand punishment for the unidentified men who attacked Reyes.

President Azcona condemned the attack today and promised to conduct a thorough investigation of the incident. He repeated his willingness to keep freedom of expression in Honduras "by all means."

President Appoints New Labor Minister

SA1111170989 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Nov 89 p 8

[Text] Tegucigalpa—President Jose Azcona on 2 November swore in lawyer Rodolfo Rosales Abella as the new Labor and Social Welfare Minister, who said that one of the first labor problems he will have to resolve will be that of the Tela Railroad Company.

Rosales Abella said that he already has President Azcona's instructions on how to resolve the labor problem at the Cortes dock between the trade union and operators of the Tela Railroad Company, but would not say what resolution the government will issue, adding that it would be legal.

Rosales Abella said that he will take into account the ideas of former Labor Minister Armando Blanco Paniagua. He was killed in a tragic accident on 21 October.

"We are going to honor his memory by trying to imitate the way he treated with so much deliberation the serious situation that arose at the Tela Railroad Company," he said.

Rosales Abella believes that strikes should not be attacked because it the workers' right; what should be done is to try and resolve the problem.

New Leftist Guerrilla Group Formed

PA1111163189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1431 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 11 Nov (EFE)— The Patriotic Resistance Front 1827 [Ejercito de Resistencia Patriotica 1827], (ERP-27), a heretofore unknown leftist guerrilla organization, announced its presence today in Honduras with a propaganda action.

Two devices designed to distribute propaganda exploded in this capital, issuing the first ERP-27 public communique in which the organization demands that the Nicaraguan "contras" and "the U.S. troops" leave the country.

The ERP-27 claimed "the Honduran people's right to fight with weapons and every possible means until the U.S. military occupation and all forms of foreign subjugation end."

The guerrilla organization's communique also demands respect for the presidential agreements which seek to achieve peace in Central America and "the end of the criminal war against the Nicaraguan Government and people."

There are no additional details on the ERP-27 in Honduras but its public appearance coincides with a new anniversary of the La Trinidad battle, which occurred on 11 November 1827, the first military victory of national hero Francisco Morazan. Morazan, a Honduran by birth, is the most important historical figure at the Central American level. He fought against conservative sectors to create a single republic under liberal ideas, and he was executed by his adversaries in 1842 in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Morazan is extolled by the popular and political movements in the country, and there is even one guerrrilla organization called the "Morazanista Front for the Liberation of Honduras."

The ERP-27 is the sixth leftist organization which has declared itself "up in arms" against the Honduran Government.

Nicaragua

Ortega Views Fighting in El Salvador, Elections

PA1211204089 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1750 GMT 12 Nov 89

["Excerpt" of speech by President Daniel Ortega in Nagarote—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...the Salvadoran [word indistinct] is doing the same thing Somoza did with the cities of Nicaragua, and the Nicaraguan Government is concerned about this, about a massacre, a genocide against the Salvadoran people. What is required is a peaceful solution of that conflict, not the bombing of Salvadoran cities. When those airplanes bomb cities they are really bombing the civilian population. How can they know who the bombs, rockets, or shots will hit? It is a truly a dangerous situation.

I urge the international community—just as it becomes concerned, carries out campaigns, and makes statements when the Nicaraguan Government adopts harsh measures—to draw attention to the situation in El Salvador. The international community must speak out and prevent the bombing of Salvadoran people and cities.

This morning, brothers of Nagorote, I have walked these streets with a great deal of enthusiasm, warmth, and happiness. You know perfectly well that the battle we are waging in the electoral field is the same battle we have waged in the military field with the contras, the only difference being that this battle is in the electoral field. The elections will be between Nicaragua and the United States, between Nicaragua's independence and the United States, which does not want Nicaragua to be independent.

Who, then, will we vote for on 25 November? [crowd response indistinct] We must vote for Nicaragua, and we must invite all Nicaraguans to vote for Nicaragua, even if those Nicaraguans are not members of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], even if those Nicaraguans were members of other parties, even if those Nicaraguans were involved with Somozism in the past. It is a matter of voting for Nicaragua, against the imperialist policy; it is a matter of choosing between Nicaragua and the imperialist power; and Nicaragua is represented by the FSLN. No one must be mistaken about this. [applause].

The FSLN is the only force that can guarantee stability for all the social and economic sectors of this country: large-, small-, and medium-scale producers; merchants; industrialists; everyone. Only the FSLN can guarantee this because the UNO [National Opposition Unity] is simply a mess of people, a badly made and wrapped (?tamale). That is what UNO is, and no one can eat it. [applause, shouts]

You like baseball, right? You like baseball. When the batter is up, the pitcher throws and the batter hits the ball, but the ball veers left, what is that? [crowd responds: "Foul to the left!"]. If he bats again and the ball goes the other way, what is that? [crowd responds: "Foul to the right!"]. And he hits it through the center, way up there.... [crowd responds: "Home run!"] It is a homerun. Therefore, one should bat neither to the left nor to the right but through the center; 25 in the 5th. [as heard] You must hit a home run, 25 in the 5th. That is where the FSLN is, in the fifth. That is where the vote must be cast, and that is where Silvio Mayorga and all the people of Nagarote will cast their votes for the FSLN on 25 [February 1990].

Ortega Welcomes Decision To Disarm Contras

PA1211180089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1556 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Managua, 12 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega termed as "good news" the Honduran Army's decision to disarm the "contras" beginning Monday, 13 November, to guarantee the Honduran elections, scheduled for 26 November.

Ortega, who today arrived in Nagarote from Chichigalpa, 130 km west of Managua, to continue his electoral campaign in that region of the country, said he felt optimistic because the rebels would be disarmed. According to the agreement signed by the five Central American presidents in Tela (Honduras), the rebels must be demobilized before 5 December.

Colonel Lazaro Avila Soleno, chief of the Public Security Forces (FUSEP) in Honduras, announced today that the nationwide disarmament operation "will be indiscriminately carried out. There will be no exceptions."

The Nicaraguan president also said: "We managed to get the contras to sit down and negotiate in New York, and Honduras has given us the good news: The mercenaries will be disarmed."

Negotiations between the Sandinist Government and the "contras" were suspended yesterday in New York without reaching a specific agreement, but they will be resumed at the OAS headquarters in Washington next tomorrow.

The two parties unsuccessfully discussed for 2 days an agreement for a cease-fire and the demobilization of the rebels based in Honduras.

Daniel Ortega yesterday also urged the Nicaraguan people not to vote "for the left or for the right, only for the center, for the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front]," the ruling party, in the 25 February 1990 Nicaraguan elections.

Resistance Presents Proposal to Government

PA1011034989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0251 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] United Nations, 9 Nov (EFE)—The Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] presented an 11-point proposal to the Nicaraguan Government today, and 10 of its points are conditions to be met prior to the "contra" dismantlement.

The plan was presented at the meeting that the "contras" are holding with representatives of the Nicaraguan Government at the United Nations. The meeting is being held under the guidelines of the International Verification and Support Commission (CIAV) as established by the Tela, Honduras agreement signed in August 1989.

The anti-Sandinist rebels consider that a bilateral cease-fire is the first step required for their voluntary repatriation or relocation. Once the bilateral cease-fire is in effect, immediate negotiations should begin "to truly implement it and to ensure its vigilance and verification."

To carry out the verification, the RN wants the Sapoa commission reconfirmed. This commission was formed after a dialogue was held between both parties in March 1988 to verify compliance with the cease-fire. The RN also wants military observers from the recently created UN Observers for Central America (ONUCA) to join the Sapoa commission.

The RN's proposal stipulates that while the cease-fire verification mechanisms are discussed, enclaves for the "contras" to be located should be agreed upon. The "contras" are to stay in these enclaves while the negotiations for their eventual dismantlement take place.

The proposal states that the parties are to commit themselves not to take any direct or indirect action that "will hinder the Nicaraguan electoral process, including the suppression of areas from the process for war or public security reasons."

The RN also wants the Nicaraguan Government to immediately start to eliminate mines in the areas and on roads so that persons can move freely during the process.

As a contribution to the creation of an atmosphere of confidence, Nicaragua must suspend the military reserve service, and in complying with the Central American peace agreements, it must decree prior to 20 November a general and unconditional amnesty for political crimes and "similar common crimes."

After the amnesty, "a commission of the RN would travel to Nicaragua as soon as possible to view the situation prevailing in the country and the political conditions required by the agreements of the presidents of the area. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Once all of these points have been complied with, the "contras" will publicly recognize that there is the necessary climate of confidence for "continuing the conversations with the government that are provided for in the Tela agreement on the conditions for guarantees that will allow the dismantlement. [no closing quotation marks as received]

The rebels' proposal confirms that the most difficult obstacle in today's negotiations between the parties is when the RN must begin its demobilization.

For Nicaragua, at least 50 percent of the "contras" must be demobilized prior to the amnesty.

Government-Contra Talks Recessed Until 13 Nov

PA1111021589 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0139 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] New York, 10 Nov (DPA)—The talks between Nicaragua and the "contras" at the UN Headquarters in New York concluded tonight, but they will continue at 1500 on Monday, 13 November, at the OAS Headquarters in Washington, the United Nations announced today.

The announcement comes at the end of 2 days of meetings—on 9 and 10 November—at the UN Headquarters between a Nicaraguan government delegation led by Victor Hugo Tinoco and a "contra" group delegation led by Enrique Bermudez. Cardinal Obando y Bravo is present as a witness, while Honduran delegate J.R. Martinez Ordonez is an observer.

The final communique says "in the course of the meeting, the delegations carefully examined the various topics that were proposed by both delegations according to the Tela Agreements."

The communique points out "the delegations have tentatively identified some of the areas in which there could be an agreement, subject to the resolution of the topics that are still pending."

A recess in the negotiations until Monday, 13 November, was decided in order to make some consultations and then resume the negotiations at the OAS in Washington, the communique adds. At the end of the meetings, Cardinal Obando y Bravo said that the negotiations have not been interrupted, but there has only been a recess "with the purpose of thinking over some issues and making consultations."

The participants at the Washington meetings will be the same as those who have been participating in the New York meetings, the cardinal explained. Without explaining the reason for transferring the talks to Washington, Obando y Bravo said this might be for the purpose of having "some variety."

D'Escoto Says Demobilization Date Not Negotiable

PA1211011989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0005 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Washington, 11 Nov (EFE)—Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto said in Washington today that for his government, the deadline for disbanding the "contras," which expires on 5 December, "is not negotiable."

D'Escoto said that even though some other aspects of the peace agreements will not have been completely fulfilled by 5 December—such as the contras relocation to third countries, for example—"there is no reason for their disbanding not to take place."

The Nicaraguan foreign minister met in Washington today with his four Central American colleagues from the executive commission of the peace plan and after a 2-day session, he decided to leave the meeting open in order to wait for the results of the talks that began in New York on 9 November between representatives of the contras and the Sandinist government.

In view of the lack of an agreement, the negotiators of both sides decided to suspend the sessions on 10 November and resume them on 13 November in Washington.

That is why the Central American foreign ministers decided to postpone any possible agreement regarding a possible extension of the contra demobilization deadline and, for the time being, will not answer the letter signed by the UN and OAS secretary generals, Javier Perez de Cuellar and Joao Clemente Baena Soares, respectively, in which they point out that the time frame given for the disarmament of the contras was really not prudent.

In this Regard, the positions of the foreign ministers are far apart. While D'Escoto closed the doors on any initiative in this regard, his Costa Rican colleague, Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto, said that "if it is absolutely necessary," Costa Rica would favor the extension of the deadline agreed to by the Central American presidents at Tela, Honduras, last 7 August.

Madrigal favorably viewed the fact that the Sandinists and the rebels have begun a dialogue because, according to him, "the more silence there is between the sides, there more room there is for violence."

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister D'Escoto described the Honduran Government's decision to disarm the contras who are at the border with Nicaragua as "good news." However, Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras played down the significance of the decision, explaining that it is a precautionary measure that is always taken before elections such as those that will be held in Honduras on 26 November.

"If Honduras has finally reached the conclusion that it is going to prohibit the use of its territory by the contras, this comes at the right time," D'Escoto said, adding that this decision should be affirmed by the United States, which should immediately turn over the funds approved for the contras to the United Nations and the OAS to be used for repatriation.

The foreign ministers, who did not issue any communique at the end of today's meeting, agreed that this session was "very productive."

Although they postponed any decision on the disbanding of the contras, the foreign ministers agreed to increase the cooperation among their countries to effectively fight against drug trafficking, and they created a Central American commission on the environment and development.

They also decided to establish the "systematic negotiation" of the subcommission on security in Central America and agreed to increase the participation of the five foreign ministers in the processes of political verification of the Central American peace agreements.

UNO Explains Nonparticipation in TV Debate

PA1111030789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0154 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Managua, 10 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The National Opposition Union (UNO), made up of 14 parties, did not attend a political debate opened tonight by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega on Sandinist Television Channel 6.

Luis Sanchez, spokesman for the main opposition alliance, told ACAN-EFE today that UNO did not accept the debate because it is "controlled" by the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN].

Sanchez, leader of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party [PSN], also said that "we have nothing to discuss with the Revolutionary Workers Party [PRT] or the Marxist-Leninists (two of the invited parties), who do not represent anything in society."

Present at the debate were Iqbal Riza and Manuel Lizano, chief and deputy chief, respectively, of the UN and OAS observers to the Nicaraguan electoral process. Mariano Fiallos, president of the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE) of Nicaragua, was also present at the meeting.

"The real debate is between the FSLN and UNO, and not as they are trying to do now in this debate that is organized, controlled, and manipulated by the ruling party," Sanchez emphasized.

He said that UNO is willing to hold a debate with the FSLN, but not how it is being done" by that party.

President Ortega described the UNO leaders' attitude of not attending the debate as "immature," and warned: "First they complained they had no opportunity to speak on television, and now that they have the opportunity, they do not show up."

CSE President Mariano Fiallos briefly spoke during the debate and asked the UNO leaders to think over their decision, as this is a good opportunity to make use of television time.

Participating in the debate were the Social Conservative Party (PSC), the Independent Liberal Party for National Unity (PLIUN), the PRT, the Central American Unionist Party (PUCA), the Democratic Conservative Party (PCD), the Movement of Revolutionary Unity (MUR), and the FSLN.

During a meeting held yesterday at the CSE, representatives of all the political parties agreed that the debate will be broadcast on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 1800 to 1900.

The opposition spokesman pointed out that UNO continues to demand "effective and autonomous" access to state television, the only one allowed in Nicaragua. Sanchez said UNO is demanding that the government allow it to broadcast an independent newscast as well as political propaganda on Channel 6.

During the first debate, MUR leader Moises Hassan, who is a former Sandinist leader, and PRT leader Bonifacio Miranda attacked both the FSLN and the UNO, as they believe that neither of these two offer any alternative for change in Nicaragua.

Cesar Asks Contras To Stall UN Talks

PA1111183989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1721 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 11 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan opposition leader Alfredo Cesar has asked "contra" military chief Enrique Bermudez to hinder the negotiations with the Nicaraguan Government to avoid the "contra's" demobilization, according to a letter published today in the Honduran newspaper "TIEMPO."

In the letter dated 7 November, Cesar underlined to Bermudez that "we must understand that no agreement whatsoever must be reached regarding the demobilization at the meeting in New York."

Delegations from the Sandinist government and the "contras," the latter headed by Bermudez, on 9 November initiated negotiations at UN headquarters in New York to reach an agreement on the demobilization of anti-Sandinists based in Honduras and to achieve peace in Nicaragua.

Cesar, a former member of the "contra" directorate and a deputy candidate for the Nicaraguan National Opposition Union (UNO) in the 25 February elections, argues in the letter that "the presence of armed resistance fighters is essential throughout the entire electoral campaign."

In the letter published by "TIEMPO," which did not explain how the newspaper gained access it, Cesar says that "the negotiations in New York must extend to a new meeting" and gave assurances that the "contra" demobilization issue is making the Sandinist government make "mistakes."

"If you must sign some commitment, consider the time factor because here (in Nicaragua) things have become a little complicated," Cesar pointed out.

One of the complications he cites in the letter is that "Now, suspiciously, Eli [Altamirano, secretary general of the Communist Party of Nicaragua] has again stated his intentions to hinder our plan."

Eli Altamirano's party is one of the 14 parties in the UNO which supports the presidential candidacy of Violeta Chamorro. "I believe it would be convenient," Cesar adds, "for you to warn Eli, based upon the meeting in Guatemala; if not, he will continue to be used. In any case, I would prefer to oust him by citing his own statements."

The "contra" directorate met in Guatemala with the internal opposition at the beginning of this year to analyze the latter's participation in the elections.

"It is important for you to consider the time factor; remember that the campaign is brief and that as things are going, despite the disappointment with the gentleman I mentioned, I believe we will achieve good results," the letter concludes.

Contras Form Commission To Manage Movement

PA1011031789 Paris AFP in Spanish 0125 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Washington, 9 Nov (AFP)—Nicaraguan "contra" military leaders announced today that a "civic-military" commission had been formed to take over the management of the movement. This step was immediately denounced by the civilian leaders who were removed as "a coup d'etat."

The commission is formed by the "Commanders" Israel Galeano Cornejo, alias "Franklin"; Marcos Orlando Navarro, alias "Dimas"; Oscar Manuel Sobalarro, alias "Ruben"; and Aristides Sanchez, former member of the Nicaraguan Resistence (RN) Directorate. [Words indistinct] that the commission was formed because of "the disintegration" of the RN Directorate as three of its members—Alfredo Cesar, Alfonso Robelo, and Azucena Ferrey—returned to Nicaragua to join the electoral campaign for the February 1990 elections.

Adolfo Calero, the RN Directorate member who was removed, denounced the step as a coup "promoted by the U.S. State Department" and added that U.S. Government officials "have a short memory and have forgotten how the military sector has spoiled matters in the past."

The U.S. State Department, which manages the $49.7 million in humanitarian aid that the Congress approved for the "contras" last April, cut off funds for the civilian directorate of the RN and forced them to close an office in Washington in July and another office in Miami in September.

In late September, a ranking official said that those measures were aimed at forcing RN leaders to reside in Central America, because it was there that negotiations for the demobilization of the "contras" were taking place and there that the Nicaraguan elections would occur.

Galeano was supposed to head a news conference today in which the new civic-military commission was announced, but the State Department prevented him from doing so, arguing that his ticket to Washington had been paid with U.S. taxpayers' money and the law bans the use of official funds to influence public opinion, the conference organizer Greg Mueller said later.

Mueller accused the State Department of trying to "gag" "Franklin" out of fear that he would say something that could jeopardize negotiations that began today in New York between the Nicaraguan "contras" and government.

RN Leader Bermudez Views Ortega Proposals

PA0911181989 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Telephone interview with Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) military leader Colonel Enrique Bermudez by Luis Mora on 8 November; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mora] Colonel Bermudez, first of all, we would like to hear your views about the proposal which the Sandinist Government revealed this morning.

[Bermudez] Even though I do not have all the details on Ortega's statements about the plan that will be proposed, based on the information available, I can determine that this proposal is totally opposed to the agreements signed by the Central American presidents, the spirit of the Esquipulas agreements, and every other agreement aimed at achieving peace and democracy in Nicaragua. The proposal has been publicly revealed, and I think it was done for publicity purposes.

We see that the Nicaraguan Government is not really serious about the proposal. Above all, we think it is necessary to reestablish a cease-fire, but this time it should be supervised and verified by a responsible commission so that the Nicaraguan Government does not issue charges—which we flatly reject. Quite the contrary, we accuse the Nicaraguan Government of violating all the.... [changes thought] It is guilty of those charges.

In sum, an atmosphere of trust and credibility must first prevail toward the Nicaraguan Government—this does not exist right now—given the systematic lies and violations which the government has perpetrated over the years despite the agreements it has signed. We will present our proposal, which interprets the Central American agreements and, above all, the Nicaraguan people's hopes and interests.

[Mora] Commander Bermudez, the Sandinist government is talking about reaching an agreement right now, immediately, during the meeting scheduled to begin 9 November in New York. Do you think that this negotiation process will immediately result in an agreement like in Sapoa?

[Bermudez] We are willing to help solve the Nicaraguan problem, provided that democracy is established and we put a stop to totalitarianism. We will end the war, and we will also put a stop to totalitarianism.

[Mora] Commander Bermudez, does this mean that you will not only discuss the technical aspects of the demobilization as proposed by the Nicaraguan Government?

[Bermudez] We will discuss everything so that we may end the war in Nicaragua and establish peace and democracy, particularly to end the obsolete and anachronistic totalitarianism that is being phased out in the capital.... [corrects himself] in Moscow. We believe Nicaragua should not continue to maintain or adopt alien, obsolete, and anachronistic systems that are being phased out in their places of origin.

[Mora] Commander, the Sandinist government is also saying that it will decree a general amnesty for thousands of Nicaraguan prisoners after 50 percent of the RN troops have been demobilized. First of all, I would like to know: Do you think that the RN will negotiate an amnesty for the prisoners? What is your view about the statement?

[Bermudez] Fist of all, this violates the Esquipulas agreements, so we must remind them to read the Alajuela declaration, which specifically talks about the amnesty—which must be general, for all the Nicaraguan people, including those being persecuted; those who are in prison; those who are in exile; those who have been shut up and silenced in exile. Members of the Sandinist government have committed crimes throughout the 10 years of the Sandinist regime.

[Mora] Commander, you first mentioned that prior to any negotiations or agreements there should be an atmosphere of confidence and national credibility. What do you mean by this atmosphere of confidence and national credibility?

[Bermudez] In the first place, we cannot be talking about demobilization when the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] has received $1 billion in Soviet-made weapons since 3 February 1988, whereas our group of patriots has not received a single cartridge for defending themselves since that same date. They are surviving only because of their high patriotism and the support they have from the Nicaraguan people.

First of all, we are going to demand the creation of this atmosphere that should be truly effective, and we will exert pressure so that the Sandinist government will strive toward national reconciliation. We are very concerned and surprised over the fact the proposal has a note saying that the receipt of warlike materiel will be suspended temporarily, until 25 April.

The Sandinists have their warehouses filled with the $100 million in weapons they just received. They have no more room to store anything else, yet they are planning to continue receiving more weapons. What for? It should be expected that the Sandinists will assign this $3 billion they have received in scrap metal from the USSR, and with this $3 billion they have received in weapons, they will solve the economic problems in Nicaragua. [sentence as heard]

I do not think the Sandinists can continue to hope to stay in power after all the economic, political, social, and moral destruction they have inflicted on the people. The people want a change.

[Mora] Commander, the Sandinist government has announced its proposal for the meeting that is to begin tomorrow in New York. What is the RN's proposal?

[Bermudez] We will announce it at the site where the negotiations will be held; that is, at the United Nations in New York. There, we will present our proposal to the Sandinists, because we are very serious and we want to achieve peace and democracy as well as an end to totalitarism. We do not want to use this proposal for propaganda purposes, as the Sandinist government is doing.

[Mora] Are there any points in common with the government proposal?

[Bermudez] There are no common points, because we see that the Sandinist government does not really want to achieve peace. Rather, it wants to remain in power with the same totalitarian structure and without allowing the Nicaraguans to repatriate. The government speaks of expatriation, not repatriation.

[Mora] On the other hand, the RN has asked His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo to be an observer at the talks between the Nicaraguan Government and the RN. We would like to know what the RN thinks about the presence of Cardinal Obando y Bravo in these talks.

[Bermudez] We want him to be a witness, not an observer. Cardinal Obando y Bravo is the highest moral authority the Nicaraguan people have. His presence has a tremendous moral and spiritual meaning for all Nicaraguans. He is a guarantee so that we will achieve the goals of peace and democracy we all want.

[Mora] An important opposition (?newscast) this morning said it would probably be necessary to hold another meeting in Sapoa in order to achieve peace in Nicaragua. What do you think about that?

[Bermudez] I think if we are going to comply with the Esquipulas Agreements and all the other agreements that have been signed, there must be a serious negotiation with verification, surveillance, and followup of all the points discussed. We are tired of the promises and lies of the Sandinists. Therefore, we must negotiate this carefully, point by point.

[Mora] You mentioned during this conversation that there should be some kind of monitoring body or mechanism to prevent RN forces from attacking the government, or government forces from attacking the RN, and also to prevent mutual accusations. Has the RN designed or does it have any method or mechanism to deal with this?

[Bermudez] We have a formula, an acceptable formula that is in keeping with the Central American accords and the Nicaraguan people's interests and aspirations. We will give details about it as soon as we present our proposal. We will ensure that the Nicaraguan people learn about it. Excuse me, but I must go now.

[Mora] I would like to ask one more question [words indistinct] last week said that RN members face three options: accept amnesty, leave for Honduras, or [words indistinct] Nicaragua.

[Bermudez] It is regrettable that a person who calls himself the president of Nicaragua is referring to blood and death as if he were talking about something natural or normal. He does not seem to harbor any Christian feelings or to be touched by the suffering of the mothers and the orphans, who will be the only people left here, because Daniel Ortega's killings will leave behind widows, orphans, and many injured.

We regret that all this is running counter to all the talk about peace and national reconciliation. It is running counter to all the commitments made. Daniel Ortega's statements [words indistinct] and the Nicaraguan people are called on to decide whether people like him should continue to occupy such a lofty position from which he can control the Nicaraguan people's interests.

[Mora] Commander, this will really be my last question. Who will make up the RN's delegation to the talks at the United Nations that will begin on 10 November?

[Bermudez] Commander Renato, Commander [name indistinct], Commander Johnson, and myself.

Resistance Adviser on Civic-Military Commission

PA1011040989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0255 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Washington, 9 Nov (EFE)—The Northern Front of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] has established a civic-military commission in hopes of becoming the sole political representation of the "contras" after the dissolution of the anti-Sandinist forces, a member of this group reported today.

Israel Galeano Cornejo, better known as "Commander Franklin," who led the Northern Front's operations for 6 years, is the leader of this commission. He was scheduled to appear before this capital's media today to explain the duties and objectives of this new form of the "contras."

Jose Matus, the commission's adviser, appeared before the reporters on Galeano's behalf and excused "Commander Franklin" by saying that he was meeting with U.S. State Department officials at that moment.

According to Matus, the objectives of the civic-military commission are to create a new RN structure, fill the void left by the departure of several "contra" leaders, ensure the unity of forces fighting against the Sandinists, and ensure that the dialogue with the Nicaraguan Government is maintained as the means to achieve peace.

This commission will not resort to the use of arms as long as the upcoming elections, which are scheduled to take place in February 1990, are free, and as long as there is a general amnesty and compliance with the cease-fire, "which was recently broken by Nicaraguan Government troops," Matus pointed out.

Besides "Commander Franklin," the other top leaders of the commission are Marcos Orlando Navarro Carrasco ("Commander Dimas"), Oscar Manuel Sobalvarro Garcia ("Commander Ruben"), and Aristides Sanchez.

When asked to explain the noninclusion of Enrique Bermudez and Alfonso Calero in this new commission, Matus said that Bermudez is currently the Nicaraguan Resistance's top representative and evidence of this is that he is heading a team that began peace negotiations today with Sandinist Government representatives in New York.

As for Calero, whom he described as a firm fighter who deserves everybody's respect, Matus simply said that the only reason why Calero is not among the leaders of the resistance forces is that the current situation does not need his services; however, Calero is in contact with the negotiating team in New York.

Although he expressed hope in the current negotiation between the "contras" and the Sandinist Government, Matus said that Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega will find new excuses not to hold the elections.

Matus added that the Sandinist military structure does not allow the current government to meet the social needs that the people are demanding, and thus maintaining the war is its only option and reason to be.

Defense Ministry Reports Clashes, Casualties

PA0911230989 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1955 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Communique issued by Defense Ministry in Managua on 9 November—read by announcer]

[Text] Sandinist People's Army [EPS] Combat:

On 3 November, our troops clashed with a group of mercenaries in Quisalaya which is located in western Huaspan in the North Atlantic Autonomous Region. The enemy sustained seven dead and four wounded.

On 6 November, mercenary units ambushed our troops in Cano Yolaina which is southeast of Nueva Guinea in the South Atlantic Autonomous Region. One of our troops was wounded. On 7 November, our troops fought in Cano Quesilala which is southeast of Presillitas in the South Atlantic Autonomous Region. The enemy sustained one dead, and we also confiscated two AKA rifles and one rifle kit.

On that same day, our troops fought in Cerro El Corozo which is located northeast of Revolution in Chontales Department. Our troops sustained two dead and two wounded. The mercenaries sustained one dead. The names of our dead comrades are Lieutenant Daniel Roberto Martinez Navarro and Ernesto Martinez Barrera. The name of one of our wounded comrades is Second Lieutenant Javier Palacios Rodriguez.

On 7 November, our troops fought in Cerro El Cachete which is located north of Quilali in Nueva Segovia Departament. Our men had two wounded.

On 8 November, a group of mercenaries ambushed two [word indistinct] military trucks in a placed called La Pavona which is located north of Abysinia in Jinotega Department. Our troops report one dead, six wounded, two kidnapped, and two trucks destroyed.

Terrorist Actions Against the Civilian Population and Economic Objectives:

On 8 November, a group of mercenaries kidnapped two civilians in a place called Zacatera which is located southeast of Juli in Jinotega Department. On that same day, peasant Carlos Antonio Chavarria was kidnapped in a place known as Paslamas which is located northeast of La Libertad in Chontales Department. The mercenaries also stole six horses.
Issued in Managua on 9 November 1989
Public and Foreign Relations Directorate
Defense Ministry

* FSLN's Nunez Views Postelection Assembly

90EM0030A Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 23, 24 Sep 89

[Interview with Commander Carlos Nunez Tellez, member of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) and president of the Legislative Assembly, by Sofia Montenegro; date, place not given]

[23 Sep 89 p 3]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted]

The National Assembly and the Political Accords

[Nunez Tellez] ...The political will of the government and of the presidential summits is not enough to make possible the implementation of the accords. In this regard, the National Assembly became the legal forum that legalized the political accords and enacted them into law.

[BARRICADA] Is this a kind of division of labor?

[Nunez Tellez] Yes. In fact, at this point we are putting it into practice because it is up to the National Assembly to turn the Accords of the last National Dialogue, signed by the president of the Republic and the 21 parties that existed at the time, and the Tela agreements into legal provisions. As of next Tuesday, we will undertake to complete the implementation of the agreements signed in the National Dialogue and in Tela. This has to do with the reform of the Law on Communications Media, the repeal of Decree 1074, the reform of the jurisdictional functions of the Sandinist Police, the reform of the Penal Code, the Civil Service Law, and the partial reform of the Constitution.

In other words, our work is more specialized in nature, and besides that, this situation has forced us on five or six occasions to change our electoral calendar. This National Assembly, which will serve a term of only about 5 and ½ years, even though it was elected for a 6-year term, will bequeath or delegate to the new Assembly that will be installed in February 1990 a number of tasks that will remain pending: the reform of the Labor Code, the reform of the Penal Code, the reform of the Civil Code, the Law on Mistreatment, with respect to violations. We may not have enough time to carry out the tasks that we had scheduled for the 1989 calendar. [passage omitted]

I think that in the next legislative session one of the agencies we urgently need to strengthen is the General Directorate of Legal Counsel, which serves as a legal adviser to the president, the Junta, and all of the committees of the National Assembly, and which issues rulings, attends all the sessions of the assembly, and in many cases drafts legislation.

I think that the National Dialogue is not directly related to Parliament, but rather to the political efforts of the revolutionary government to find a consensus of national unity and an opening that will allow for greater participation and assertiveness by the political parties represented in the National Assembly and outside of it, in search of that nationalist patriotic spirit that would help bring peace to Nicaragua. We never thought that promoting the National Dialogue would create an entity parallel to the constitutionally established institution....

[BARRICADA] It has a strictly ad hoc nature.

[Nunez Tellez] That's right, linked to the negotiating process that the Nicaraguan government had been pushing in the political and military spheres. But any agreement that in any way violated or was related to the constitutional order would necessarily have to take the form of a legislative act in the National Assembly. That spirit always prevailed among us as we promoted the negotiation; the problem is, the same spirit did not prevail among the parties that were present at the National Dialogue, especially among parties that are not represented in the Parliament and some, like the Communist Party, that are represented in Parliament. These parties tried to turn it into a supranational forum that would replace all the other institutions...and that's why the National Dialogue broke off.

[BARRICADA] Well, Commander, so far we have talked about the merits of the Assembly, but among its defects, it is accused of lacking functionality to ensure more effective work. What is your opinion in that regard?

Assembly's Historic Role

[Nunez Tellez] As far as I know, and in my view, the National Assembly has its functions clearly established in Article 138 of the Constitution. I have understood that its functionality is closely tied, first of all, to fulfilling the mandate of the Constitution, which entrusts it with a number of responsibilities. Its primary responsibility is to pass judgment on, debate, and enact all the laws of the Republic that are submitted by the executive, introduced by the parties represented in it, or submitted by the judiciary or the electoral branch within their purviews. Therein lies the functionality of the National Assembly as a branch of government.

This task has been fulfilled, and I emphasize that the Sandinist delegation has fulfilled, has played a historic role. This is very different from any assessment that has to do with what influence the representatives have. They are two completely different matters.

The construction of a juridical-political model of a revolutionary nature, plus the policy of aggression pursued by the U.S. government, meant that the representatives had to work intensely. In particular, when we debated the Political Constitution, we usually had to meet 5 days a week from 0900 to 0200 hours, because we had an obligation to meet. In the second place, we Sandinists had to be the most disciplined, because to pass every article of the Constitution required 60 percent of the votes, that is, a total of 59 votes. There are 61 Sandinists in the Parliament. We could not afford to be lax in our discipline, because the opposition might organize a manipulative effort to prevent the Constitution from being passed. In addition, for laws of constitutional rank, a special vote of 60 percent is required, because in the juridical structure, they are the principal laws.

[24 Sep 89 p 3]

[Text] In this second part of the interview, Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez Tellez discusses the characteristics and details of the upcoming local and national elections. In addition, the man who is number one on the list of candidates for deputy to the National Assembly for Region III explains his points of view on the possible functioning and composition of the main legislative tribunal for the next session.

[BARRICADA] Does the fact that more national cadres of the FSLN are on the slates of candidates for the Assembly reflect the fear that it will be more difficult to obtain the same percentage of votes as in the presidential elections? Or is it just that the Assembly is expected to play a more important role in the next 6-year term?

[Nunez Tellez] I think the value of the National Assembly is not determined by some elections, but by the content of its work. But we Sandinists have always been realistic, pragmatic, and objective; we have never underestimated the adversary. Obviously, for the 1990 elections the battle is between the Revolution and imperialism; between Sandinism and the expression of imperialism in our country, that is, the ultra-right, which will receive full backing, economic-financial, legal and illegal support from the U.S. government. In view of the changes that are taking place throughout Latin America and of our recent experiences, in order to avoid underestimating the adversary, we are preparing not only to defend our power, but to sweep the elections at all levels. Unlike 1984, when only seven parties were involved, now there are municipal elections and elections of the autonomous authorities on the Atlantic Coast. This means that the electoral process will be more complex, more difficult, and will require better organization, more outreach by our cadres, a better projection of our political and moral authority with the population, and stronger ties to the people. Our conviction has always been to win.

New Faces in National Assembly

[BARRICADA] Let's put it another way, Commander. What kind of opposition delegation do you expect, in qualitative terms, after the elections?

[Nunez Tellez] First of all, I think the 1984 elections are not the right yardstick against which to measure the 1990 elections, because they will be very different. Moreover, the balance of power in Parliament, or rather the representativeness, will change. This is a personal opinion, but I think that even though the political situation has not been entirely defined, there will be new faces in the National Assembly.

I believe that, if she does not consider it a dishonor, and if she manages—and she can—to obtain the electoral coefficient, the first new face we will see in the National Assembly will be that of Violeta Barrios. I do not at all believe she can defeat the Sandinist Front in the elections. I think that some parties that are represented now will remain. Others will not. Especially the minority parties that have renounced their revolutionary principles and the example set by their founders and have become the caboose of the ultra-right, or other parties that, while maintaining honest positions in defense of the Revolution, think they can go it on their own because they think they have enough strength to win representation in the National Assembly. Among the other new faces, I think some parties that are not in the Nicaraguan Opposition Unity (UNO) bloc but will also run in the elections on their own will be represented in Parliament.

[BARRICADA] And quantitatively?

[Nunez Tellez] At this time I couldn't say exactly. The new National Assembly will become the political-juridical battleground of the Revolution, but I think it is too early to tell what percentages many of these parties will win. I do believe, however, that the 1990 elections will definitely establish once and for all what the political spectrum will be in Nicaragua's future. And it won't be 21 parties; possibly 7 to 10.

[BARRICADA] Has the FSLN changed its idea of the role its representatives in the Assembly should play in the next 6-year term, compared to the previous term?

[Nunez Tellez] The function—I would not say idea—is determined, as in other sectors of Nicaraguan society, by the culmination of the peace accords. According to the Bylaws and Regulations of the National Assembly, formally it must meet twice every 2 weeks, but we haven't been able to comply with that throughout the 4 years, precisely because we have been affected by the aggressive policy of the United States and the mercenary activity. In times of peace we could establish a different functioning, so that we could accomplish two objectives: fulfill the legislative calendar and allow the FSLN representatives to reach out into the country's regions, establishing ties with their constituents. I think that is the concern you had expressed, but that depends on whether we achieve peace.

[BARRICADA] Is there a desire and an expectation, in addition, that the elected representatives will really be spokesmen for the interests of the sectors and territories that elect them?

[Nunez Tellez] That's right. The current representatives have complained that they do not have mechanisms in their respective regions to maintain ties with their constituents, or any way for them to learn what the concerns of the constituents are. There are a number of reasons for this, but the fact is that these mechanisms have indeed been lacking, except for momentary situations when there has been social interest in a particular matter. But that is coincidental. The FSLN has to continue improving its structure and mechanisms along the way, adjusting to the changes that are taking place....

Electorate Votes for Platforms

[BARRICADA] Some analysts feel that there is a certain type of voter who would be willing to vote for the FSLN presidential ticket, but who would "punish" the FSLN in the National Assembly, voting for the opposition in order to set up a counterweight to the Sandinist government. Do you have any fear about that?

[Nunez Tellez] In 1984 the percentage of votes for the presidential and legislative slates was slightly different, with the presidential ticket receiving more votes than the legislative candidates. But I think that the legislative electoral results would not be determined by a policy of punishment, but rather by the accomplishments that each political party participating in the electoral process is capable of bringing about, taking into account that the electorate votes for a platform, for a party, or for a coalition. And in that regard, at least we are of the opinion that in the case of the Sandinist Front, Nicaraguans don't vote for just individuals, but first of all for the party, for what it represents, for its principles and its platform. That is the experience we had in 1984, and now, in 1990, that is our own assessment of the situation, in a way.

The Sandinist Front does not consider itself a traditional party, nor does it regard the elections as a traditional exercise, as in the case of other countries. For us, this electoral process is the culmination of an entire process of negotiations aimed at the principal objective of bringing peace to the country. We believe it is the key for unlocking a number of important points that have to do with Nicaragua's stability. Whether or not a party wins representation in Parliament will depend basically on whether it has been able to maintain its social base during these 10 years of Revolution, and whether its platform has enough credibility and weight not only to convince its followers but also to sway all the undecided voters. The fact is that in the last 2 months, the FSLN has been skyrocketing in the polls we have conducted. The same thing happened in 1984. We have no fear.

Ultra-Right in Danger of Extinction

[BARRICADA] Well, let's not look at it as a "punishment" but as a "counterweight," because there has been speculation recently that some people are willing to give their vote to the "little left," as they call the ultra-left, in the legislative elections. The first reason is to annoy the right, and the second is to keep some radicalism in the Assembly. What do you think of that?

[Nunez Tellez] Well, sure, that is another perspective, because I have thought that not only for the right and the left. I think the ultra-right's primary effort will be aimed—if they can resolve their differences—at winning the most votes in the National Assembly. If they lose the presidency, they will try to have as many representatives as possible to block presidential initiatives. For this purpose they will use the substantial financial resources that the U.S. government will give them, especially the sectors led by the Coordinating Board and the Higher Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP).

I am concerned about the left. They say they will go it alone. The Electoral Law at this time benefits the majority parties, and if we use as a point of reference the figures from 1984, when they had to scrape together all of the electoral residues to get two candidates, we see that in 1990, when the law favors the parties that win the highest percentages of votes, they are really risking their demise. But I do agree with you on the parties of the ultra-right and the center, in the sense that they will work to win as many votes as they can in the Assembly so that they can block the president of the Republic.

Some UNO Parties Will Disappear Too

[BARRICADA] What is your overall prognosis?

[Nunez Tellez] The composition of the National Assembly will change. I think that parties will disappear, and the minority parties face that risk. I also think that some parties in the so-called UNO coalition will disappear unless they make better decisions. The truth is that at this time in that coalition no one knows what is happening anymore, because the price they are paying for the presidential selection is running their own candidates alone in the legislative and municipal elections to try to stay alive as political parties. This is a contradiction that has not yet been resolved. On the other hand, there are the parties that don't even have legal status, and will not be represented in the Assembly. That is true of the Zuniga and Perez Arevalo factions. And finally, there are those whom I call the renegades from Marxism, in this case the communists, socialists, and others, who are no longer capable even of controlling their representatives. For example, this delegation that went after Dona Violeta to look for funding in Miami doesn't have the solid backing of any of the directorates of any of the parties. It is a personal initiative on their part, although now they are taking pains to explain that they have no authorization.

Panama

State Council Revives Corregimiento Assembly

PA1011155989 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 10 Nov 89 pp 1, 11

[Report by Luis Quintero]

[Text] In a meeting held yesterday in Los Santos, the General State Council voted to create a 41-member legislation commission that will have the legislative powers stipulated in the Constitution that have not been assigned to the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives.

In a press communique released last night, it was reported that the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives will exercise judicial and administrative powers as expressed in the Constitution.

During the event held yesterday in Los Santos Province, Honorable Representative Fermin Herrera confirmed [ratifico] General Manuel Antonio Noriega as coordinator of plans and programs of the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives and leader of the process of national liberation. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 1331 GMT on 10 November reports that at the same State Council meeting in Los Santos, a proposal by Representative Fermin Herrera to appoint Gen Noriega as coordinator of the Assembly "was presented and acclaimed but not approved"]

Press Communique

The General State Council, meeting in Los Santos under the chairmanship of President Francisco Rodriguez P., considering that it is necessary to fully normalize the country's institutional life as soon as possible and that participation by the entities representing the people's power is required to do so, has agreed to reestablish the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives during the provisional term and until such a time as the pertinent constitutional provisions enter into force.

The agreement reached by the General State Council provides that the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives will be composed of as many members as there are corregimientos in the national territory. It also provides that the Assembly will meet every 3 months in Panama City on a date to be determined or in special session, at different places, when convened by the executive branch or its coordinator.

The General State Council also decided that the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives will have the judicial and administrative power stipulated in the Constitution and at the same time limited its legislative powers to specific issues.

These legislative functions include: Approving or disapproving the international treaties and agreements signed by the executive branch before such treaties and agreements are ratified, declaring war, authorizing the executive branch to negotiate peace, and approving or disproving reforms of the national territory's political distribution as proposed by the cabinet.

In addition, the National Assembly of Corregmiento Representatives can decree amnesty for political criminals and establish internal regulations.

Other important functions that the Council of State has assigned to the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives include recommending measures to cope with the aggression against Panama by the U.S. Government and its allies, censuring public officials, and electing the Assembly's board of directors.

Equally important is the Assembly's power to select from outside the Assembly a national coordinator who will be authorized to summon the Assembly to special sessions to discuss urgent matters. The Assembly will assign specific duties to this national coordinator.

The General State Council's ruling also states that there will be a legislation commission made up of 41 members. This commission will have the legislative functions stipulated in the Constitution that have not been assigned to the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives.

The State Council ruling also established guidelines for mayors to appoint municipal employees.

This ruling amends and is to be added to Paragraph 1.2 of Article 2 of Decree 1 of the General State Council dated 31 August 1989.

Los Santos, 9 November 1989

Noriega Appointment Possible

PA1011144889 Paris AFP in Spanish 0807 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Panama City, 9 Nov (AFP)—According to official sources, the Panamanian General State Council, headed by Provisional President Francisco Rodriguez, today expanded the powers of a 510-member people's assembly that in the next few weeks could appoint General Manuel Antonio Noriega as prime minister. [passage omitted]

The General State Council, headed by Rodriguez, is composed of Vice President Carlos Ozores, the 21 ministers, and the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] General Staff, including FDP Commander Gen Noriega. [passage omitted]

Following the annulment of the 7 May elections, the General State Council appointed Rodriguez as president. The opposition described this decision as "a new coup d'etat" that retains Noriega's real power intact. [passage omitted]

On 11 October, Noriega was appointed "plans and programs coordinator" of the People's Assembly.

A high-ranking people's assembly member, Ramon Ashby, said that in the next few weeks, Noriega could be appointed "head of government" in the same way the late General Omar Torrijos, who headed the 1968 military coup, was appointed in 1972.

Rodriguez Praises Reestablishment of Assembly

PA1111012389 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2330 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] The General State Council that met in the town of La Villa, Los Santos Province, agreed to reestablish the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives. The agreement was approved at a meeting that took place at La Villa council house and was presided over by President Francisco Rodriguez.

The meeting was attended by Vice President Dr Carlos Ozores Typaldos, Defense Forces Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega, government ministers, Defense Forces General Staff members, and provincial officers. At the meeting, the president stressed how important the approval of this agreement is for the country, especially because it strengthens Torrijism.

The president briefly summarized his 2 months in office by saying that 17 different new laws have been approved for the benefit of the Panamanian people. Regarding the agreement approved by the General State Council that reestablishes the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives, the president said:

[Begin Rodriguez recording] This agreement is to reaffirm the work methods we once learned, which we are now once again taking up. We believe that this forum, which now has the important powers conferred upon it defined, should also serve as an abundant source of ideas to help face all the legal adversities with which the country is being attacked. This agreement should not only serve to resist the aggression, but also to come up with much needed answers for our Panamanian society. [applause] [end recording]

Opposition on Revival of Corregimiento Assembly

PA1011191789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1756 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Panama City, 10 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Commenting on the State Council's decision to revive the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives of General Omar Torrijos' time, the Panamanian opposition said today that the regime and General Manuel Antonio Noriega are adopting "increasingly brazen forms of dictatorship."

Simultaneously, Corregimiento Representative Ramon Ashby told ACAN-EFE today in Los Santos—a town in central Panama where the meeting of the State Council was held last night—that the new Assembly is expected to grant special powers to Gen Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], "until the year 2000."

Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], Panama's largest opposition party, told reporters in Panama City that the State Council "reaffirmed the regime's dictatorial nature by creating an Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives, whose members have been appointed, not elected."

According to Arias, this nature is further demonstrated "by proposing Noriega for a position in which he can do anything he pleases." Ashby and other representatives in the new assembly have proposed Noriega, Panama's "strongman" since 1983, for the position of "coordinator" of the Assembly and announced they intend to grant him special executive powers.

Arias said that "this is a caricature of the Torrijist institutional structure. Torrijos himself realized that it had to be done away with to establish democracy in Panama."

An Assembly, similar to the one installed last night by the General State Council, gave Gen Omar Torrijos—the first "strongman" of the regime established following the military coup that overthrew President Arnulfo Arias in 1968—the powers of head of government in 1972.

"It is an historic contradiction," Arias said, "that at a time when even the communist regimes are advancing toward democratic systems with free elections, in Panama we are taking steps backward toward a shameless form of dictatorship."

Meanwhile, in Los Santos, when ACAN-EFE asked Ashby if the Assembly had any intentions of appointing Gen Noriega "head of state," he answered: "We do not discard the idea. Quite the contrary. We believe it is the final step we must take within this transition."

"The Assembly," he added, "must give him (Noriega) the necessary power and instruments for him to continue the struggle for national liberation. The goal is the year 2000. With Noriega to the year 2000."

Fermin Herrera, another representative who last night formally proposed Noriega as "coordinator" of the Assembly, today told ACAN-EFE that the Assembly will meet before the end of the year; however, he did not give an exact date. Herrera said the objective of the organization will be "to confront the U.S. aggression."

According to the agreement approved last night by the General State Council, the Assembly must choose a coordinator who is not a member of the Assembly, and the coordinator "will have duties assigned by the Assembly."

Gen Noriega and Provisional President Francisco Rodriguez, approached by reporters last night and today in Los Santos, refused to comment directly on the possibility of giving Gen Noriegal special powers.

Paper Scores U.S. Rejection of Administrator

PA0911184489 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 9 Nov 89 p A-1

[Unattributed article]

[Text] The stubborn stance of President George Bush's administration regarding Panama has led him to take actions that constitute an outrageous and flagrant violation of the Torrijos - Carter Treaties. The U.S. Government has rejected the designation of the Panama Canal administrator proposed by Panama.

The U.S. Administration refuses to accept Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque as the next Panama Canal administrator. Altamirano Duque was designated by the people's Legislative Assembly recognized by the U.S. Government.

Altamirano Duque, proposed for this position by the Legislative Assembly, received 43 yes votes; 13 legislators cast blank ballots, and no one voted no. It is worth mentioning that names proposed for this position included that of Deputy Canal Administrator Fernando Manfredo, who did not receive a single vote, not even from the opposition legislators who sympathize with the U.S. Government.

From 1984 until it was closed in October 1989, the Panamanian Legislative Assembly was recognized by the U.S. Government as an organization whose members were selected in a popular election recognized and approved by the White House. Nevertheless, the disagreement that resulted from the designation of the new president caused a rift between the Panamanian and U.S. Governments when then President Eric Arturo Delvalle was removed.

Although the U.S. Government did not recognize the Panamanian presidents after Delvalle was removed, it could not disrupt the Legislative Assembly, because this organ, whose members were genuinely elected by the people, was not altered, despite the country's political circumstances.

Ignorance of Panamanian laws has led the U.S. Government into making the big mistake of confusing the actions of the three branches of the state: the executive, legislative, and judicial. With the intent of not complying with the treaties, the U.S. Government attributes its actions to a disagreement with General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

The treaties stipulate that the Panamanian citizen who must become Panama Canal administrator on 1 January 1990 "will be proposed by the Panamanian Government to the U.S. Government, which will appoint him to the position."

The rejection of the name proposed by Panama is clearly a violation of the treaties. The whimsical appointment of a citizen not designated by Panama casts doubt on the good faith and respect for the treaties that the Bush administration boasts of throughout the world.

In Washington, Michael Kozak, assistant deputy secretary for inter-American Affairs, told the House of Representatives' Panama Canal Subcommittee on 2 November: "There will be no Panamanian administrator designated by Panama. We do not recognize the regime as a government."

In addition, Dennis McAuliffe, current Panama Canal administrator, said: "We must do everything possible to make sure the essential canal operations continue." He also said: "It is up to the United States to designate someone in the Panama Canal Commission to help the canal employees carry out their daily tasks. A possibility could be for President Bush to appoint the deputy administrator to act as temporary administrator as of 1 Janauary."

By rejecting the proposal of a Panamanian citizen for this position and proposing the current deputy administrator as acting Panama Canal Commission administrator, President Bush's administration violates the treaties, because he is not abiding by what the two governments agreed upon.

According to an AP dispatch from Washington, President Bush intends to appoint Manfredo as Canal administrator, arguing that, because Manfredo is Panamanian, the spirit of the treaties is being complied with.

Manfredo Willing To Accept Administrator Post

PA0911193589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Panama City, 9 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Deputy Panama Canal Administrator Fernando Manfredo, a Panamanian citizen, is willing to become—because he considers it "the lesser of two evils"—acting administrator of the Canal beginning in January, as a result of the U. S. refusal to appoint progovernment politician Tomas Altamirano Duque to the post. Nevertheless, Manfredo told ACAN-EFE today that he will only consider this possibility if the Panama Canal Commission [PCC] Board of Directors—formed by five U.S. and four Panamanian citizens—"restores the powers that were taken away from the administrator in 1988."

Manfredo's announcement coincided with a charge published today in LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA claiming that the "willful" appointment of Manfredo or any other person would violate the Canal treaties signed by the two countries in 1977. Duque is the owner of LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA. The treaties provide for the appointment of a Panamanian administrator in 1990 to replace U.S. Administrator Dennis McAuliffe, but this has not been possible because of the acute and growing confrontation between the Governments of Panama and Washington. Michael Kozak, deputy assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, recently said the White House will not appoint Duque or any other Panamanian chosen for the post by the current regime headed by Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Washington has not recognized the Panamanian Government since Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle was ousted in February of 1988 after unsuccessfuly attempting to force Noriega into retirement.

Manfredo told ACAN-EFE today that "very high-ranking" U.S. officials have told him that Washington has two alternatives. The first alternative is to appoint a U.S. deputy administrator, as the treaties stipulate, and leave the administrator's position vacant. The U.S. official would then be in charge of the Canal.

"The other alternative," Manfredo continued, "is to not to appoint either an administrator or deputy administrator, and simply extend my tenure administratively so I can function as acting administrator." Manfredo added: "We Panamanians are facing a harsh reality. It is not a matter of whether we like it or not. These alternatives do not conform exactly with what the treaties prescribe, but I am sure that will not keep the United States from taking action. The decision that has to be made is to choose the lesser of two evils."

LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA said today that by not accepting Duque as canal administrator, the United States is "scandalously and flagrantly violating the treaties." According to Duque's newspaper, "the whimsical appointment of another citizen who has not been proposed by the Republic of Panama casts doubt on the presumed good faith" of President Bush and on his promises that the United States is going to uphold the treaties. The article notes that the Panamanian Legislative Assembly, dissolved on 31 August, proposed Duque for the post, rather than his having been proposed by the government Washington does not recognize.

Manfredo insists, however, that one has to take into account "the harsh reality" and the importance the Canal holds for Panama and for international trade. In view of this, Manfredo said he is "willing to favorably consider the proposal of staying" if he is assured he would be given "the true powers of an administrator."

If his conditions are met, Manfredo would accept the administrator's position "for a reasonable period or until Panamanian-U.S. relations have returned to normal." Manfredo also announced that toward the end of the month, he will travel to Brazil, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia to lecture on the future of the Canal and to hold talks with users of the interoceanic waterway.

Foreign Minister on Upcoming OAS Meeting

PA1111133589 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 11 Nov 89 pp 1, 14

[Report by Euclides M. Corro R.]

[Text] Speaking about his trip on 12 November to attend the OAS General Assembly's 19th ordinary session, Panamanian Foreign Minister Leonardo Kam said that Panama will resolutely oppose any sanction or condemnation of Panama.

He added that "it would be unbelievable for a small country that has suffered aggression to be sanctioned or condemned while the power perpetrating the aggression goes unpunished."

Kam was emphatic when he pointed out that "if the price Panama must pay for defending its national dignity, opposing foreign meddling in its internal affairs, and defending its self-determination is its expulsion or suspension from the OAS, then we will pay that price patriotically."

The Panamanian foreign minister is heading the delegation composed of Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, Pedro Pereira, Julio Yao, Harley James Mitchell, and Javier Bonagas.

In his statements to the media, Kam pointed out that "the United States insists on the unscrupulous policy of blackmailing Latin American and Caribbean governments to use the OAS as a means of meddling and ensuring the adoption of measures and sanctions against Panama."

"It is painful," he said, "that some countries have not yet understood that what is taking place against Panama can be used against them at any time."

Kam also deplored the conduct of some governments in the region that strongly are against Panama, but have turned out to be "cowards when it comes to denouncing the United States for its aggression against Panama."

Kam concluded by urging the Latin American and Caribbean countries participating in this 19th OAS ordinary session "not to become accomplices of such an injustice."

Released PDC Leader Claims State Death Threats

PA0911225489 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2142 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Panama City, 9 Nov (DPA)—Panamanian opposition member Guillermo Marquez today accused the state security organization of issuing death threats against him and his children and of insinuating that his wife "would be raped" in an effort to coerce him into signing a document which says that "the U.S. aggression against Panama has the support of the local opposition."

Marquez, who heads the discipline tribunal of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], was arrested on 8 November upon his return from Bogota, where he participated in the congress of the Christian Democratic Organization of America (ODCA). He held a news conference at the PDC headquarters after his release.

He stated that while in prison, a hood was placed over his head and he was told that he would be "executed." He added that he was asked about the PDC president's friendship with U.S. President George Bush.

Marquez said that the state security agents wanted him to sign a document which stressed that opposition members and U.S. Embassy diplomats held meetings at the Apostolic Nunciature.

ODCA President Fidel Chavez Mena, former presidential candidate in El Salvador, attended the news conference. He expressed his solidarity with Marquez and voiced concern over the human rights situation in Panama.

Government Arrests Opposition Leader Arosemena

PA1011230089 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2238 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Panama City, 10 Nov (DPA)—Roberto Arosemena, opposition member and secretary general of the People's Action Party (PAPO), was arrested at Omar Torrijos Airport today when he returned from Caracas.

Marcia de Arosemena, the politician's wife, told DPA that he was arrested at 1000 and is now being held at the state security garrison (G-2). According to his wife, Arosemena had traveled to Caracas to promote his book "Witness to Freedom," in which he tells about his experiences in the Panamanian jails where he was held in 1987 for his political activities.

Radio Lists Names of 'Political Detainees'

PA1011024889 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1849 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Report by unidentified reporter in Panama—all figures as heard]

[Text] We have obtained a list of detained people. It is the latest report released by the University Corps for the Respect of Human Rights [Cuerpo Universitario para el Respeto a los Derechos Humanos] in the Republic of Panama.

The report includes the following names: Jose Gonzalez Obando, Luis Antonio Cuevas, Omar Pitty, Domingo Arcia, Victor Manuel Barsallo Tugam, Guillermo Fernandez, Leonardo Figueroa, Edgardo Matthews, Ricardo Ruiz, Armando Antonio Ramos, Jaime Rios, Humberto Montenegro, Alejandro Pimentel, Zenen Alfonso Briceno, Raul Ossa, Leticia de Duran, Mario Briceno, Mario Davila, Jose Franco, Jose Antonio Pineda, Julio Bejarano, Jaime Bejarano, Arquimedes Flores, Liodo Cortes, Esperanza Pineda Rodriguez, Magdaleno Quintero, Florentino Mendoza, Kurt Frederick Muse, Rafael Zapata, Davis de Almengor, Valerio Arauz Aguirre, Teodulo Gonzalez Baena, Luis Alban Mendieta Sanchez, Dennis de Pena, Gabriel Rodriguez Bermudez, Carlos Romero, Rosendo Antonio Botello Candanedo, Concepcion Segura Gonzalez, Nelson Javier Cedeno Frias, Aldeo Quintero Hernandez, Armando Enrique Peralta, Nicolas Torres Beleno, Teofilo Cesar Medina, Julio Cortes, Carlos Rivera Martinez, Jaime Licona, Cristobal Perez, and Hector Macias Cerezo.

All of the people on this list are currently held as political detainees in various prisons as follows: 10 prisoners are held in Modelo Prison; 7 are held in Renacer Prison; 2 in Coiba Island; 11 in the David jail in Chiriqui Province; 2 in the Women's Reformatory; 1 in the Los Santos Province jail; 1 in the Changuinola jail in Bocas del Toro Province; 1 in the Divisa jail in Herrera Province; and 5 in the National Department of Investigation.

Union Announces 'Mobilizations' Against War Laws

PA1011201589 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1944 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Panama City, 10 Nov (DPA)—The Panamanian National Federation of Association of Public Employees (FENASEP) today announced upcoming "mobilizations" to ask the government to reconsider some of the "war" laws it implemented in October.

Juan Samudio, deputy secretary of the organization that is composed of 154,000 public workers, said that abolishing the 13th-month bonus and some unjustified firing are "things that FENASEP cannot accept." The leader said that FENASEP "is not going to remain quiet," and it will defend the public employees. He added that "mobilizations" at all levels are being planned and that the organization will draft counterproposals to present to the government.

Treaty Affairs Director on U.S. 'Violations'

PA1011235789 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2307 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] The U.S. Army South's military movements are intimidating actions against Panama and clear violations of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, Captain Severino Mejia, executive director of the Panama Treaty Affairs Executive Directorate, said. Referring to the activity by U.S. troops, Mejia rejected the expression maneuvers.

[Begin Mejia recording] These actions should not be termed as maneuvers. These are acts of harassment and intimidation seeking to break the fighting spirit of the Panamanian people in their attempt to attain our third independence. These actions are just a show of muscle to try to show that those troops have the offensive capability to carry out military actions against our country.

Panama, its people, and the national government will always remain calm, faithfully complying with the treaties. Our responsibility is to pass on the leadership from one generation to the other and to carry out the withdrawal of the entire U.S. military presence in our territory in the year 2000. [end recording]

Planning Minister Gonzalez Departs for Moscow

PA1111204489 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2015 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Panama City, 11 Nov (DPA)—Gustavo Gonzalez, Panamanian planning and economic policy minister, left for Moscow today to put the final touches on a commercial agreement between the USSR and Panama that has been pending since 31 December 1988. The announcement was made by a source close to the planning minister.

Gonzalez initially scheduled his visit to Moscow for 7 October; however, the incidents that occurred in early October forced him to postpone his trip.

This is the second official mission that Panama has sent to the USSR in the past 21 years in an attempt to coordinate the establishment of commercial relations. The previous visit was in 1977 when the head of government, the late General Omar Torrijos, sent a delegation to Moscow to initiate contacts for this purpose.

The aforementioned agreement was approved by the Panamanian parliament in late 1988 and allows the parties involved to establish commercial missions with the privileges and immunities accorded to diplomats accredited in Panama and the USSR.

In June, the Soviet trade attache at the Soviet Embassy in Costa Rica visited Panama and met with Minister Gonzalez and with Health and Agriculture Ministry officials to draft a list of Panamanian needs and the potential products Panama could export to the USSR.

The Planning and Economic Policy Ministry recently drafted a plan aimed at overcoming the crisis "provoked by the aggression" of the United States against Panama. The strategy includes the "diversification" of export markets, which would decrease the total dependence on trade with the United States.

Argentina

Nicaragua's Ortega Sends Menem Letter of Thanks

PY1211232489 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2052 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Nov (DYN)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has sent a letter to Argentine President Carlos Menem, thanking him for his "good offices to a peaceful solution to the Nicaraguan and Central American conflict."

In a letter from Managua, dated 9 November, Ortega states: "The valuable exchange of opinions that we held during your recent visit to Nicaragua has firmly contributed to a meeting that began in New York today."

In his letter Commander Ortega emphasizes that the meeting being held in the United States—in which Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo and representatives of the counterrevolution, among others, are participating,—is designed "to achieve the implementation of the agreement signed by the Central American presidents on 7 August 1989 in Tela, Honduras."

Ortega concludes his letter by greeting President Carlos Menem and the Argentine people.

Nicaraguan Ambassador to Argentina Ariel Granera Sacasa today stressed his resolve "to pay homage to the interest, the concern, and the effort that President Menem, with a lofty Latin American spirit, has demonstrated for peace in Central America and Nicaragua."

In remarks to DYN, Sacasa said that the proposal made by Menem in Costa Rica—during the celebrations to mark Costa Rica's 100 years of democracy—"has positively contributed to the progress that has been observed."

The Nicaraguan ambassador mentioned the UN Security Council's decision to send an international peace force, and the beginning of negotiations with the counterrevolutionaries.

In conclusion, the Nicaraguan ambassador expressed his wish that the negotiations in New York will reach a successful conclusion, because "the end of the war is being discussed there."

Menem, Sarney, Sanguinetti To Attend Dedication

Sanguinetti Arrives

PY1111131089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1212 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Nov (TELAM)—Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti arrived in Buenos Aires at 0940 on a Uruguayan Air Force plane. The Uruguayan president has come on an unofficial visit to attend a ceremony, together with the presidents of Brazil and Argentina, dedicating the new Brazilian Embassy in Buenos Aires. Argentine President Carlos Menem received Sanguinetti at the metropolitan airport.

Sarney Arrives

PY1111132089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1213 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Nov (TELAM)—Brazilian President Jose Sarney arrived in Buenos Aires at 1000. Sarney has come to dedicate the new Brazilian Embassy in this city, in the presence of Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti and Argentine President Carlos Menem.

The Brazilian president arrived at the military base of the metropolitan airport today at 1000, where he was received by the Argentine head of state.

Declare Support for Integration

PY1111205489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1803 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Nov (TELAM)—This afternoon Presidents Carlos Menem of Argentina, Jose Sarney of Brazil, and Julio Maria Sanguinetti of Uruguay reaffirmed their common desire to continue promoting integration among the three countries, and they assessed "the progress made so far in this direction."

The text of the joint declaration released this afternoon reads as follows:

"In the city of Buenos Aires, on 11 November 1989, the presidents of the Republic of Argentina, the Federative Republic of Brazil, and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay reaffirmed their common desire to continue promoting the integration process among these three countries. In this spirit, they assessed the progress made so far on implementing tripartite decisions.

"In this regard, they reaffirmed their recommendations to expedite the work in the areas established by those decisions, and to intensify trilateral contacts conducive to the development of projects, thus taking effective steps in the integration process.

"The presidents of Argentina and Brazil reaffirmed their invitation to Uruguay to progressively continue integrating into the Argentine-Brazilian agreements, in accordance with the specific forms and conditions of its association with that process, which is essential for the economic and social development of the three countries.

"They also expressed their firm conviction that the presidents who will succeed them will continue the steps the three countries are taking toward integration."

Menem Reaffirms Government Policy of Change

PY1111022289 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Excerpt] President Carlos Menem confirmed this morning that the government is being pressured to change its policy. He added: We decided to remain firm and to turn a deaf ear to those who have not yet understood that the country's situation is not normal. He also said that the government will not listen to those who do not understand that they must not maintain an attitude that has hurt us so much already.

The president made these remarks before noon as he left the Jose Hernandez Museum, which he visited to mark Tradition Day.

Finally, President Menem said that it is enough to note Argentina's place in the community of nations. It is not among the ten most prosperous nations as it should be. He added that change is detrimental to some sectors, to the interests these sectors represent, and that this explains their hardheaded, stubborn refusal to contribute to the country's progress.

In response to a question, Menem said that he will implement the supply law if necessary, because the party is over in Argentina. This is not a threat, because I don't like to make threats, Menem asserted. I am just giving a warning, he added. [passage omitted]

Menem, Rapanelli Discuss Dollar Price Rise

PY0911220089 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Excerpts] President Menem has spoken with reporters about the present economic situation. He discussed the recent increase in the price of the dollar, and stressed that the Central Bank has $2 billion in reserves. The president then said:

[Begin Menem recording] I have instructed the Central Bank not to release a single dollar, to prevent our reserves from becoming part of the speculation game. That was exactly what happened in February, and it cost the country $1.5 billion. If speculators want to play, let them play; we will not join them because it could cost too much. We could lose our reserves and be unable to fight a recurrence of the crisis. We hope that shortly, thank God, the speculators will have to withdraw, stay quiet, or leave the country. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Economy Minister Nestor Rapanelli warned: We are not thinking about using our reserves, which are now at a sound level, to contain the dollar price rise. Nor are we going to implement any economic measures or change our foreign exchange policy, he said. Rapanelli emphatically reiterated that the exchange rate and utility rates will not be adjusted. [passage omitted]

[Begin Rapanelli recording] There is a significant difference, a contradiction, between the nervousness in the dollar market and our macroeconomic indicators. Our policy is not to intervene in the market by selling dollars. Our dollar reserves are at a sound level, and we are not thinking about using them to contain the price of the dollar. In any case, the way to control this nervousness is to continue promoting structural reforms to solve the crisis as soon as possible. [end recording] [passage omitted]

AMBITO FINANCIERO published an article this morning in which Economy Minister Nestor Rapanelli denied that he or Central Bank President Javier Gonzalez Fraga were going to resign. [passage omitted]

Striking Bus Drivers Begin Returning to Work

PY1011211689 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Excerpt] The number of buses in circulation has been increasing in the federal capital and greater Buenos Aires today. According to official figures, 50 percent of service had been restored by midmorning, and by noon possibly 70 percent had been restored.

Transport Secretary Miguel D'Alesandro affirmed that those percentages could not have been reached if only bus owners were working. He added that he knew many union representatives have made agreements with the companies.

Early this morning there was a shortage of mid-distance transportation because buses did not report at the terminals to start their runs, particularly in greater Buenos Aires. Spokesmen for the Transport Secretariat affirmed that at midmorning some units began to circulate with policemen aboard. The Argentine Passenger Bus Transport Company, FATAP, reported this morning that long-distance service returned to normal at midnight.

The Buenos Aires Subway Company has reported that service on the five subway lines is normal, and that it will remain normal until midnight tonight. Rail service is also normal. [passage omitted]

Chile

Pinochet: Give Up Personal Electoral Ambitions

PY1011162489 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Excerpts] President Pinochet has urged workers and businessmen to leave their personal interests aside, and to help keep the country from returning to difficulties that have already been overcome. The president spoke during the annual dinner given by SOFOFA [Industrial Development Association] at the Italian Stadium last night.

[Begin Graciela Contreras report] The chief of state urged those who could unknownly hinder our progress toward a promising future to leave aside their electoral ambitions, which only favor those who wish to dismantle the institutional order. [passage ommitted]

[Begin Pinochet recording, in progress] ... thus, it is necessary that those who could unknownly hinder our progress toward a promising future leave aside their electoral ambitions, which only favor those who wish to dismantle the institutional order that is the basis of our progress.

I call on those people to assume their historical responsibility and to patriotically give up their legitimate congressional aspirations for the benefit of the common effort required by the country to attain the honorable destiny it deserves. [end recording] [passage omitted] [end report]

Minister Caceres Defends Pinochet's 9 Nov Call

PY1011210289 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Carlos Caceres has stated that President Pinochet's call aims to increase the chances of success of the candidates who support the concept of a free society.

[Begin Caceres recording] In his speech last night, the president made a call to all Chileans, a call for generosity to all those candidates who have no chance of winning. In this manner, they will join those candidates who do have a chance to be elected. This will also strengthen the chances of those candidates who promote the concept of a free society. I do not see anything untoward about this. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Aylwin Discusses Armed Forces Organizational Law

PY1011200289 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Report from Puerto Varas by Nelson Oteiza]

[Excerpt] If he wins the elections next 14 December and if the Armed Forces organizational law currently under study by the government junta is approved as drafted, Particio Aylwin will ask the future congress to amend the law. This was stated today by Patricio Aylwin in Puerto Montt before beginning a rest from his tour of the 10th, 11th, and 12th Regions.

The Coalition of Parties for Democracy [CPPD], Aylwin said, should assign representatives to the legislative committees to express the CPPD's position on this subject, as suggested by Armed Forces Commander General Fernando Matthei. However, this decision should be made by the parties that are members of the CPPD, Aylwin said.

When asked what he would do if the draft of the Armed Forces organizational law under study by the government junta were approved as is, Aylwin said:

[Begin Aylwin recording] I would say that this law reduces the traditional powers of the president of the republic. Therefore, if I were elected president of the republic, I would ask congress to amend the law. [end recording]

Aylwin said he hoped that the possible changes to the Armed Forces organizational law will not constitute a negative factor in the relations between the civilian and military sectors. He added that the Armed Forces have the duty to comply with their oath to respect the constitution. [passage omitted]

Admiral Merino Comments on Recent Violence

PY0911155489 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Report from Concepcion by Rene Silkis]

[Text] Navy Commander Admiral Jose Toribio Merino has categorically condemned the violent acts that recently took place in Chile. Adm Merino has come to Puerto Coronel in the Eighth Region to preside over a ceremony commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Coronel. This battle, in which 1,418 men died, took place in 1914 between a German ship and two British ships, which lost the battle.

Following the ceremony, Merino was questioned by the media about the recent attack on the home of Enrique Silva Cimma, spokesman of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy. Merino said that the criminals seek to create an atmosphere of ungovernability, quote, so as to force the government to decree a state of seige or emergency, or to force it to step down.

The Navy commander added: Quote, the government will not step down; we have the courage to stay and face anything. We will not declare either a state of siege or a state of emergency, because it would allow those self-styled democrats to say in the future that the elections were not held under normal circumstances and that they were not valid.

Regarding the massive resignation of slum dwellers and union leaders from the Christian Democratic party in the Eighth Region and other parts of the country, Adm Merino said: I think that those resignations are a consequence of how the democrats felt during the UP [Popular Unity] administration, and since they fought against the UP, they do not wish to allow the Communists and Socialists to do what they did in the times of the UP.

Teitelboim Discusses PCCh Plenary Session

Promotes Popular Rebellion

PY0911204089 Santitago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] The Chilean Communist Party [PCCh] has announced that it will continue its policy of promoting a popular rebellion of the masses even if Patricio Aylwin wins the elections. This announcement was made by the leaders of the PCCh, which is headed by Secretary General Volodia Teitelboim.

Teitelboim reported on the resolutions passed by the fifth plenary session of the PCCh Central Committee, which has decided to make an all-out effort to support Aylwin. The PCCh also stressed the necessity of maintaining unity among all the opposition parties during the next government administration. Teitelboim noted that one of the PCCh's priority objectives is to obtain legal status.

For his part, [Secretary General of the United Left and PCCh leader] Jose Sanfuentes said that the policy of the popular rebellion of the masses has made a significant contribution to the country and that it will continue in the future as part of the effort to achieve the democratization of the nation.

United Opposition Stressed

PY0911211889 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] The fifth plenum of the Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] Central Committee has decided to work for the triumph of a united opposition in the next presidential and congressional elections. This was announced this morning by PCCh Secretary General Volodia Teitelboim, who said that the people must remain alert in the next few weeks.

Teitelboim noted that this strong opposition unity against the regime is a treasure that must be guarded. Pinochet will lose the battle in the elections but not the war. He will take cover and be shielded by the 1980 Constitution, Teitelboim said.

[Begin Teitelboim recording] We believe that this will require a unified opposition and the people's presence. The left must mobilize all the democrats that trust it. The country must continue to assume its responsibilities as long as fascists continue to exist in Chile. [end recording]

According to the PCCh secretary general, the growing support for his party from student and labor unions is strengthening the future democracy. Teitelboim also said that he favors the legalization of the PCCh.

[Begin Teitelboim recording, in progress] ...the legalization process for the PCCh, which is in fact taking place. This is an absolutely democratic right but it is not recognized by the constitution of the dictatorship. Thus, in principle, we are still an illegal party. [end recording]

It will not be possible to legalize the PCCh under the current regime, but we will attain this right with the future democratic government, Teitelboim said. As for the possible normalization of relations between Chile and the USSR during the next administration, Teitelboim said that certain initial contacts have been made. In conclusion, Teitelboim pointed out that he now hoped that being a Communist in Chile will no longer mean being a humanoid, but rather a human being. [as heard]

Two Bombs Explode in Santiago; One Disarmed

PY1011154889 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Report from mobile unit by Oscar Benito Rebolledo]

[Text] Three bombs were planted by terrorists last night. Two of them exploded, and the other was deactivated by Carabineros.

One of the bombs exploded at 0055 today in a Buchi campaign office at 831 Las Lilas Street, Lo Prado District. The bomb contained 1 kg ANFO [ammonium nitrate fuel oil blasting agents] and caused minor property damage to the Buchi office and nearby houses.

Carabineros deactivated a bomb made up of dynamite sticks, which could have caused great damage if it had exploded.

A third bomb exploded at 0150 today in a printing shop at 1651 Parroquial Street, (La Venza) District. It contained 500 grams of ANFO, and damaged the shop and broke the windows of nearby houses. This printing shop was preparing material for some local political candidates.

Colombia

Government-M-19 Agreement Postponed for 3d Time

PA1311012589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0016 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] Bogota, 12 Nov (EFE)—The 19 April Movement (M-19) announced today that the signing of its fighters' "demobilization act"—an essential component of their reincorporation into civilian life—has been postponed again.

The postponement was announced a few hours after the M-19's "General Commander" Carlos Pizarro Leongomez had stated that tomorrow, 13 November, the last document in the process the two sides began 11 months ago, was going to be signed with the government.

M-19 spokesmen told Radio Cadena Caracol in Santo Domingo, the guerrilla group's central camp, located 500 kms southeast of Bogota, that the postponement was decided at the last minute.

These spokesmen explained that the delay in signing the "demobilization act" occurred "because the international organization which is to receive the weapons" of the guerrillas "has not been decided upon yet."

The signing of the "demobilization act," the last step before the M-19 can begin its reincorporation into Colombia's civil and political life, has been postponed on three occasions in the past 2 weeks.

The first step was taken on 2 November with the signing in Bogota of "The Political Pact for Peace and Democracy," as a result of the talks between the two sides regarding the rebels' actual reincorporation into civilian life.

Striking Judges Meet Barco, Demand Protection

PA0911194089 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Colombia's justices, who have been on strike for 9 days and who face threats of disciplinary action if they do not return to their posts, have finally discussed their problems with President Virgilio Barco, who received them at the Narino Palace.

This is the first time since the beginning of the national strike by judicial branch employees that the justices have met with a high government commission.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] We are demanding immediate guarantees for the more threatened justices and for the buildings where judicial branch offices function. We also demand effective economic support for the National Fund of Security for the judicial branch. Not a cent has been provided to this fund since it was created. [end recording]

The justices are now holding a closed-door meeting with the ministers of justice and finance, the attorney general, and the secretary of the presidency.

Judicial branch spokesmen have said that the strike by judicial branch employees may not be legal but it is just.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] There are regulations that permit penalties. However, 25,000 employees are on strike right now. And we have been saying over and over, if they are going to penalize some of us, they will have to penalize all of us. I believe this would produce a problem bigger than the one we have right now. [end recording]

In a few minutes, the judicial branch employees will decide, depending on the results of the meeting, if the justices' national strike will continue.

Gomez Mendez Says Army Infiltrated by Cartel

PA1211212389 Paris AFP in Spanish 1617 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Bogota, 12 Nov (AFP)—Colombian Attorney General Alfonso Gomez Mendez, in statements to the press, reported the infiltration of organized crime into the Armed Forces and demanded that the struggle against the mafia be carried out without the military, "solely by the police."

In statements for the Bogota morning newspaper EL TIEMPO, the attorney general said that a total reversal is necessary in the struggle against the drug-trafficking mafia operating in the country. He proposed the creation of a special armed militia to combat this scourge.

Gomez Mendez said that Colombia has a law that guarantees the creation of a national militia. "I believe we should consider that possibility and create a special armed corps assigned to the police, which would be capable of capturing individuals who are being sought," he added.

The attorney general said that he has reported the existence of an infiltration problem, adding that he has informed the top military commanders of this. "I know that those commanders are aware of this," he said, adding that the infiltration is at all levels.

After citing the case of the United States, where drugs are smuggled in and sold, he asked: "How do they get in? How can the greatest military power in the world allow its border patrols to be outwitted?"

Regarding the infiltration of drug traffickers in Colombia, he said that the state is acting to confront this problem, despite the difficulties, noting that "as far as the police are concerned, the infiltration is really very small, but that does not mean it has disappeared."

Regarding the military forces' participation in the struggle against drug trafficking, he said this strategy is a mistake. "I have told the top military command that if the rebels had infiltrated the military forces as the drug traffickers have, the rebels would have seized power a long time ago."

Attorney General Gomez Mendez said that the drug traffickers' enormous capacity to corrupt is what led to the infiltration, noting that "to place the Colombian Army in contact with criminals who have an enormous capacity to corrupt is really wrong."

Barco Asserts Security Groups Fulfill Task

PA1011025389 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Bogota—President Virgilio Barco has said that the state's security organizations are fulfilling their task of maintaining and guaranteeing public order throughout the country.

The chief of state said that crime is losing the war, during his speech at the graduation of 229 national police officers at the General Santander School of Cadets.

Barco said that the police force is being modernized to better guarantee the people's security.

Social Conservative Party Holds Convention

Names Presidential Candidate

PA1011141189 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Bogota—Former Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo has been nominated the Social Conservative Party's [PSC] sole presidential candidate at the party's convention. The convention at the Gonzalo Jimenez de Quesada convention center was held without the participation of the Alvarist sector [led by Alvaro Gomez Hurtado].

The result of the vote late last night, which brought about the victory of former Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo, who is from Valle del Cauca Department, was as follows: 346 votes for Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo; 72 votes for Alvaro Leyva Duran; 71 votes for Carlos Holguin Sardi; 1 annulled vote; and 7 blank votes. The total number of votes was 497 votes, which constituted the quorum needed to choose the PSC presidential candidate for the 1990-1994 term.

The convention of the opposition party was opened at 1000 on 9 November by Guillermo Angulo Gomez, president of the PSC Directorate. There were strong attacks on the administration of President Virgilio Barco Vargas during the convention. Former President Belisario Betancur said the party is not dead, adding that the organization is going through a lean but absolutely temporary phase.

'Rift' Over Candidate

PA1111165789 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0441 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Bogota, 10 Nov (EFE)—The opposition Social Conservative Party [PSC] of Colombia has been affected by a "rift" after Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo—who is not liked by everyone—became the party's only presidential candidate on 9 November.

Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, former PSC presidential candidate for the 1986 elections, leads the "dissident" group of Conservatives who are unhappy with the "hasty election" of a presidential candidate.

Alvaro Gomez did not attend the PSC national convention, held 9 November, and asked his followers, the "Alvarists," not to participate in the event.

According to political sources consulted by EFE, the former PSC candidate is sponsoring, within the party, a "delay" in the election of a presidential candidate for the May 1990 elections to "consolidate coalitions" and to "modify the government platform."

While PSC president and former Colombian President Misael Pastrana Borrero sponsors a "moderate social-conservative policy," Alvaro Gomez proposes that the Colombian conservatives "move further to the right," the sources added.

Pastrana, who insists on his party's "social character," has led efforts throughout the year for the admission of Colombia's PSC into the Socialist International.

Gomez' attitude, termed as "dissident" by political sources, was "minimized" by Pastrana, who said today to the media that "there are no rifts. We are still the only party which has many possibilities of achieving victory."

Nevertheless, sources from the "Alvarista" group told EFE today that they will soon present "a strategy that differs from the strategy of the Pastranista majority," as they call the group which supports the party's president.

The "Alvarists" insisted that Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo was "imposed" by former President Pastrana, and that his appointment "was the result of a pact made 4 months ago."

Lloreda, a 47-year-old lawyer who was minister of education between 1978 and 1982, and foreign minister in 1982 and 1983, received 346 of the 497 votes during the convention.

The current PSC presidential candidate competed with Alvaro Leyva Duran and Carlos Holguin Sardi.

No one voted for the other three candidates—Gabriel Melo Guevara, Hugo Escobar Sierra, and Guillermo Velez Urrea—who did not attend the convention.

The ruling Liberal Party will announce its single candidate in March 1990.

Presidential Hopeful Discusses Fighting Crime

PA1011025589 Bogotá Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] In Santa Marta, Liberal Party presidential hopeful Cesar Gaviria Trujillo has said that extradition is not the only mechanism available for fighting crime. We have to find ways to fight crime within our own justice system, he said.

This is the statement he made to Radio Cadena Nacional. [Begin recording] [Gaviria Trujillo] We have been saying from the beginning of the campaign that our justice system needs strengthening in order to fight crime, including drug trafficking. The country cannot allow extradtion to be the only method of fighting crime.

The country must be able to implement suitable procedures, develop judicial systems, and build maximum security prisons. This would allow us to deal with crimes committed in Colombia using our own justice system. We are in the present situation because of the difficulties encountered in administering justice. However, we must learn to administer justice and not to continue utilizing a procedure which has arisen from justice system's inability to face and fight problems.

The best way we can demonstrate that our institutions have the ability to face these problems is to build a judicial system that will allow us to fight crime, follow the appropriate legal procedures, sentence people, and if a person is found guilty, put him in a Colombian prison. On the day that we do this, we will have taken a significant step in recovering the Colombian people's trust in our justice system.

[Reporter] Mr Gaviria Trujillo, if you become president, what would be the basis of your reorganization of the Colombian justice system?

[Gaviria Trujillo] I have said this on various occasions, especially in the speech beginning my campaign in Barranquilla. The justices alone cannot face organized crime. We must set up an institutional organization of justice to face this kind of crime. We must reorganize the justice system based on this idea. These institutional organizations would follow special procedures and have special jurisdiction in facing crime. Our justices and magistrates would live in safe places. We should also have maximum security prisons. This would permit our justices to fight crime, especially organized crime, from a better position. [end recording]

Finance Minister Announces 1990 Budget Figure

PA1011134289 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 1 Nov 89 p 6-A

[Text] The nation's general budget figure for the 1 January - 31 December 1990 fiscal year was approved. It will be 4,226,353,341,000 pesos.

Finance Minister Luis Fernando Alarcon Mantilla made the announcement on 31 October during a plenary session of the Chamber of Representatives.

The approval of the draft budget will be sent to the Senate's Fourth Commission next week and, if approved there, it will receive presidential approval.

Alarcon also reported that public employees will get a 19-percent salary adjustment. This percentage will vary according to the inflation rate registered at the end of the year which was estimated at between 23 and 23.5 percent.

This salary adjustment, Alarcon added, will be made equitably. The salaries of those who receive less will be balanced with those who have greater incomes.

International Reserves Drop by $582 Million

PA1011043289 Paris AFP in Spanish 1335 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Bogota, 7 Nov (AFP)— The Banco de la Republica (central bank) has disclosed that Colombia's international reserves dropped by more than $582 million during the first 10 months of 1989.

This drop is the result of low coffee prices following the break in the world coffee pact and a decrease in oil exports caused by guerrilla attacks on the infrastructure of the petroleum industry.

According to the bank, Colombian reserves at the end of October stood at $3.227 billion.

Authorities Seize Two U.S. Registered Planes

PA1111134089 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1230 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Bogota— Two more U.S. registered planes have been seized by the military authorities and the National Police in Cartagena and Alta Guajira, and two U.S. citizens and a Cuban were arrested. The first incident occurred when a Piper twin-engine plane violated Colombian air space and landed, without authorization, at Rafael Nunez International Airport. Colombian authorities reported that after landing, the plane taxied, stopped, and tried to take off again, but members of the Colombian Navy prevented this. Frank Bailey and Ramon Torres, pilot and co-pilot respectively, were arrested.

According to the official report, the plane took off from the Bahamas. It had extra fuel tanks, has no baggage compartment, and is currently being held at the Atlantic installations of the Navy air group located at Rafael Nunez International Airport.

Meanwhile, in Alta Guajira, a National Police spokesman said that a U.S. registered plane was seized and its U.S. pilot arrested. According to the report, a large shipment of illegal drugs was going to be taken to the United States by the plane.

Bombs Explode at Liberal Unity Office, Two Banks

PA1111132889 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1219 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Pereira—Three persons were injured and heavy material damage was reported during a new terrorist wave that hit Pereira last night. Three bombs exploded at the front doors of a political party headquarters and two banks. The almost simultaneous blasts were heard at approximately midnight. The residents in the downtown area were shaken by the explosions. Injured by the shock wave were: an unidentified taxi driver; Elmer Machado, a young beggar who was sleeping on the sidewalk near one of the banks; and Raul Castano Gutierrez, a baker who was passing by. The injured persons were taken to the social security's San Jorge Hospital and the Pio XII clinic, and it was reported that they are out of danger.

Glass was broken and office furniture and equipment destroyed at the Liberal Unity headquarters, a group that follows the guidelines of presidential hopeful Cesar Gaviria Trujillo; at the Las Villas Savings and Loans Office; and at the International Bank of Colombia branch. The Pereira security council, presided over by Municipal Secretary Bernardo Gil Jaramillo, is currently holding an urgent meeting. Secretary Gil Jaramillo said that the most drastic and effective measures will be adopted to bring the situation under control, to find those responsible for last night's attacks, and to prevent further incidents.

The attack on the Liberal Unity headquarters occurred a few hours after the directorate called a meeting with civic, union, cultural, sports, and religious groups to choose their candidate for mayor. The candidate will run on the Alvarista Conservative Movement ticket headed by Senator Emiliano Isaza Enao.

This is the second attack in 2 months. On 6 September three bombs exploded—three others were defused—resulting in 60 million pesos in damage and 17 persons injured. One of the injured lost a leg.

Casualties Reported in Clashes With EPL Rebels

PA1011194789 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Bogota—One soldier, one policeman, and five guerrillas were killed in three raids by subversives in the departments of Norte de Santander, Meta, and Choco, the Defense Ministry has reported.

In El Calvario, Meta, 7th Infantry Brigade troops clashed with EPL [People's Liberation Army] guerrillas. Four rebels and one soldier were killed and two soldiers of the Alban Battallion, stationed at Apiai, were wounded.

Another confrontation between regular troops and EPL members occurred in Tibu, Norte de Santander, where a rebel was killed and much weaponry and supplies were captured. According to the Defense Ministry, ELN [National Liberation Army] subversives mercilessly raided Yoro, Meta Department. As a result, one policeman was killed and another was reported missing. In addition, a noncommissioned officer and two civilians were wounded.

The official report also said that a policeman was badly wounded during an attack perpetrated by unidentified men on the police substation at Mambita, on the border between Cundinamarca and Boyaca Departments.

It has been reported from Popayan that six peasants who were milking cows in Hacienda San Jose, Santa Leticia Corregimiento, Purase Municipality, Cauca Department, were killed, though the circumstances surrounding their deaths are still unclear. It has officially been reported that the six peasants were killed by soldiers, who mistook them for guerrillas. In Popayan, the police, the Army, and civilian authorities have remained silent on this. In La Plata, Huila Department, where the bodies were taken, it was said the number of casualties was eight.

Social Conservative Alderman Murdered in Paipa

PA1211021589 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] A social conservative alderman, (Alirio Sipaguata), and his assistant were murdered today by unidentified individuals near Paipa, Boyaca. According to the authorities, they were attacked by individuals who stole the alderman's vehicle.

Meanwhile, it was also reported that early this morning an armed group attacked a farm in Puerto Gaitan in El Meta Department, killing five people, and kidnapping two women.

Paraguay

Brazilian President Arrives on Official Trip

Inaugurates Itaipu Dam Turbine

PY1111132889 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 10 Nov 89 p 12, 13

[Text] Brazilian President Jose Sarney and Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez met this morning at the Itaipu Hydroelectric Dam, where they officially put generating unit number 15 into operation.

At 0900 President Rodriguez arrived at the site, where the world's largest hydroelectric dam is in the final stages of construction. There he waited for the Brazilian president, who arrived with his entourage 15 minutes later.

The two presidents then reviewed the troops and walked to the engine room, where they put generating unit number 15 into operation.

Afterward, the two presidents uncovered a plaque commemorating the completion of the engine room at the river bed and the beginning of operation of generating unit number 15. The plaque reads: "Brazilian President Jose Sarney. Paraguayan President General Andres Rodriguez. Meeting of the two presidents at the Itaipu Hydroelectric Dam to celebrate the completion of the engine room at the river bed, and the beginning of operation of generating unit number 15. 10 November 1989."

As established by the agenda, President Sarney gave a speech and then President Rodriguez gave one. The two presidents stressed the ties of friendship between their two countries. After a brief pause, the two heads of state observed the beautiful scene of the turbulent waters of the Parana River on the spillway of the Itaiupu Hydroelectric Dam.

The two presidents left the place at 1010 and went to the local airport to travel to Asuncion.

Visits Asuncion 10 November

PY1111195089 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 11 Nov 89 p 8, 9

[Excerpts] The democratic Paraguayan Government yesterday granted President Jose Sarney of the Federative Republic of Brazil a warm welcome. The salutes were without strict protocol, very simple, but extremely cordial and with brotherly spirit, as it is done with good friends. President Sarney came to Asuncion to begin the second leg of his official trip that brought him to the Paraguayan-Brazilian Itaipu Hydroelectric Project earlier in the morning. [passage omitted]

The special Brazilian Boeing carrying Sarney parked at the presidential sector of the international airport exactly at 1208.

The special plane carrying Division General Andres Rodriguez, president of the Republic of Paraguay and Armed Forces commander in chief, had arrived in Asuncion from Itaipu earlier. Some members of his entourage had also arrived earlier. [passage omitted]

With his familiar smile on his face, President Rodriguez walked toward the airplane's staircase to welcome Sarney to Asuncion. The president was accompanied by Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana. [passage omitted]

The two presidents and their entourages drove directly from the airport to the Paraguayan Yacht and Golf Club on the banks of the Paraguay River in Lambare.

At the Yacht Club President Rodriguez hosted a luncheon for Sarney, his entourage, and other officials from the two countries.

Yesterday afternoon President Sarney, who is staying at Ambassador Soares Carbonar's residence, rested a while before attending his other official engagements, which included an art show at the Brazilian Study Center, a wreath-laying at the National Heroes Memorial, and a conversation with President Rodriguez at Government House.

After the meeting, Rodriguez decorated his illustrious guest with the highest distiction our country can grant: the Marshall Francisco Solano Lopez Collar of the National Order of Merit. The two presidents gave short speeches on the occasion.

At 1700 the two countries' foreign ministers signed a technical cooperation agreement during a ceremony at the Foreign Ministry.

At 2100 President Sarney offered a dinner in honor of the president of Paraguay at the Brazilian ambassador's residence. This act marked the end of Sarney's official visit. The Brazilian president will return to Brazil at 0700 today. He will depart from Silvio Pettirossi International Airport, where President Rodriguez and other high-ranking authorities will bid him farewell with full military honors. [passage omitted]

Rodriguez Decorates Sarney

PY1111145289 Asuncion Red Nacional de Television in Spanish 2239 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Speech by President Andres Rodriguez at ceremony at Government House in Asuncion to honor Brazilian President Jose Sarney—live]

[Text] Only a few hours ago I had the pleasure of meeting your excellency at Itaipu. During this meeting we once again had the opportunity to ratify in the name of our peoples the yearnings for cooperation and friendship that fortunately link us. I am honored to receive you at the Lopez Palace to decorate you with the [Marshall Francisco Solano Lopez] Grand Collar of the National Order of Merit, which carries the name of the person who created it to recognize the merits of those who rendered outstanding service to the fatherland during a tragic period of its history.

This order has been reinstated to fulfill the same purpose in peace. You merit this decoration today because of qualities essentially rooted in your person and in your very intelligent work as president to increase and strengthen our relations. The Paraguayan president cannot forget that you, together with the presidents of Argentina and Uruguay, tried to give special encouragement to our present political process.

The encouragement we received was proof that my fatherland can expect to be treated as an equal. We not only want, but have, the right to maintain this kind of relationship with other brotherly American countries, and particularly with our neighboring countries.

I am pleased to know that your visit on 15 May inaugurated an effective process of fluid understanding among our governments. It also launched a regional integration process that promises to show its positive potential in a short time.

The last decades saw many structural changes taking place. These changes made a restatement our strategy for development necessary. Our regional integration is imperative, and it demands a more active participation of our country, as we also work for our own domestic development.

Mr. President, our geographic proximity has carried us toward integration. We entertain the very ambitious goal of constituting a single large territory in America. This seems to have been the goal of many political ideologues who shared the romantic dreams of some of our forefathers.

Paraguay has struggled from the days of its independence to have an autonomous government. We resisted attempts to have our future dictated from the outside. We have learned to defend our sovereignty on the battlefields. What we learned during those hard years has helped us delineate the master plan for a new understanding, because we are convinced that each country on this continent, and in the world, is unable to survive by itself in an increasingly interdependent world.

Peaceful coexistence is the only valid formula for development. All our countries have paid a high price for the personal ambitions and lack of understanding that have characterized American relations in past eras. The dramatic situation of our countries today—which are hounded by hunger, ignorance, and vice—requires that we radically change some values that in the past were considered unalterable.

Our countries' autonomy, our decisionmaking capability, our prosperity, our patriotism, and our actual independence depend on the unrestricted respect and understanding of our individual situations, whatever our geographic size, our wealth, or our cultural importance.

We can no longer ignore each other. We all have the right to participate together in legitimate prosperity.

Your excellency has been one of the champions of the integration process in America. I am now pleased to make this reflection: In a few more days your great nation will experience a new day of democratic revival, to which your excellency has contributed greatly despite the difficulties of our times. I eagerly wish that the illustrious citizen Jose Sarney return home with the satisfaction of a job well done. He carries our special affection and consideration—affection and consideration that we want to demonstrate by the symbolism of the Marshall Francisco Solano Lopez Collar that I will now place on his chest in the name of the Paraguayan nation as a sign of our firm, permanent, and sincere friendship. Thank you.

Sarney Gives Thanks for Award

PY1111160089 Asuncion Red Nacional de Television in Spanish 2248 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Speech by Brazilian President Jose Sarney after being awarded Paraguay's top decoration at Government House in Asuncion—live]

[Excerpts] My dear and good friend, Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Paraguay, Division General Andres Rodriguez:

It is a great honor for me to receive the Marshall Francisco Solano Lopez Collar of the National Order of Merit, which Your Excellency has just awarded to me. [passage omitted]

Our bilateral relations are broad and diversified. In our meetings, which have always been cordial, we made in-depth analyses of bilateral issues. We addressed issues like the transportation of Paraguayan soybeans through Brazilian territory, the railway connections between our two countries, and the presence of Brazilian farmers in Paraguay. Ours has been a permanent, open, and frank dialogue, as befits two countries that are joined by so many strong ties of friendship. [passage omitted]

This morning we dedicated the 15th turbine of the Itaipu Hydroelectric Dam. Despite serious economic and financial difficulties, we have strictly complied with the construction timetable of the plant, which should be completed in a little over 1 year.

My government has spared no effort to meet the timetable, which was agreed upon by our two countries. Obtaining credits on the international market has been a difficult task. Brazil and Paraguay have been forced to make sacrifices and an exceptional financial effort to continue with work normally. Itaipu is the fruit of the spirit of understanding that characterizes relations between our two countries.

This spirit has made it possible for us to continue implementing the project as scheduled. The Brazilian Government has worked to find solutions to all the problems affecting this project.

Bilateral cooperation and strict mutual respect will remain the foundations of Brazilian-Paraguayan relations. [passage omitted]

Mr President: As the century nears its end, our continent experiences a situation marked by serious difficulties. Foreign pressure has grown, while the foreign debt, protectionism, and the reduction of prices paid for raw materials have become a heavier burden.

Only if they unite will the countries of the continent overcome such obstacles. The various initiatives toward understanding and integration in Latin America have been designed to promote regional unity.

Step by step, we are building a stronger continent, with more possibilities to provide for the well-being of our peoples. This regional understanding process is nurtured by democracy, which has again flourished and which is being consolidated on the continent. At the end of this year, all South American countries will be living in democracy. [passage omitted]

Through my visit to Paraguay, I have paid tribute to the Paraguayan people and to the work of President Andres Rodriguez. My visit also conveys a message to the future Brazilian president. If I am here in Paraguay at the end of my term, it means that the future Brazilian president should also visit Paraguay many times. Thank you very much.

Foreign Minister Argana Leaves for OAS Session

PY1311115889 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 12 Nov 89 p 13

[Text] Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana left yesterday for Washington D.C., where he will explain Paraguay's current situation. Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin, a leader of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA), is in the delegation accompanying Foreign Minister Argana to Washington. Argana and his Honduran colleague, Carlos Lopez Contreras, have been nominated as candidates for the presidency of the current term of the OAS General Assembly. Argana, who left for Washington yesterday afternoon, will take part in the OAS sessions as of 13 November. The foreign minister has said that during his stay in Washington he will hold meetings with colleagues from friendly countries, particularly neighboring countries. He also said that he is scheduled to meet with U.S. authorities.

Regarding his nomination as a candidate for the presidency of the OAS General Assembly, Argana said that this "is a reflection of Paraguay's international image." He added: "This nomination was a spontaneous decision made some 8 days ago by foreign ministers from friendly countries."

Argana said: "It seems that there are several foreign ministers who will support this nomination. But, of course, this is something that will be decided on election day."

Argana said that his speech to the OAS assembly will concentrate on Paraguay's current situation, which is "naturally centered on the political process begun on 2 and 3 February."

Humanist Party Executive Board Elected

PY0711212489 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 5 Nov 89 p 5

[Summary] The National Council of the Humanist Party (PH) is made up as follows: secretary general, Graciela Mendieta; liaison secretary, Gladys Careaga de Vera; social action secretary, Nicolas Servin; political action secretary, Ricardo Buman; press secretary, Carlos Gustavo Callizo; finance secretary, Teresa Notario; and recording secretary, Ana Ascurra.

Peru

* Lima Mayoral Candidates Present Platforms

33480294 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 29 Oct 89 p A2

[Editorial by Ramon Remolina: "Conversation in the Chamber of Commerce"]

[Excerpts] More than a week ago a forum was organized by the Lima Chamber of Commerce to bring together the principal mayoral candidates for the province of Lima and well known reporters in order for the former to present their platforms and for the latter to comment on candidates' statements and question them on their programs. [passage omitted]

Since it was impossible to include all of the 10 registered candidates during the 3-hour forum, the Conference Committee decided to schedule the 5 candidates who have led in the polls. In the end only four candidates participated as one of them declined the invitation.

First, I will try to summarize, as briefly as possible, the main points presented by each of the candidates:

Juan Inchaustegui:

—To promote the participation of the private sector - To expand the transportation system through the participation of national industries - To seek a solution to electricity and water problems by restoring the efficiency of Electrolima and Sedapal. - To utilize the imagination and economic power of the informal sector - To establish new innovative methods of domestic financing - To undertake a complete administrative restructuring

Enrique Bernales:

—Lima's annual population growth rate cannot continue at the rate of 3.5 percent - The municipal government has a huge and growing service deficit, which requires strong political and managerial control - The number of street vendors increases by approximately 15,000 to 20,000 a year as a means of escaping poverty and crime. It is necessary to relocate them and to regulate their trade - The problem of revenues and municipal taxes should be solved by increasing the number of taxpayers

Henry Pease:

—It is essential that all citizens participate and that councilmen act as administrators and promotors - The formation of a metropolitan committee with participation from the business sector is necessary to discuss problems and find solutions - Private lots in downtown Lima should be exchanged for municipal lots in other parts of the city which can then be used for the relocation of street vendors - The central government cannot provide financial resources given the current economic crisis - The number of municipalities is decreasing world wide in contrast to Peru where the number is increasing - The greatest problems facing the municipality are transportation, housing and commerce in downtown Lima

Mercedes Cabanillas

—The Municipality of Lima receives its revenues from various taxes and sales of goods and services, each of which has its own degree of importance - Direct revenues represent 75 percent and transferred revenues 26 percent, most of the latter coming from the Glass of Milk program - The best method of increasing revenues is to increase the percentage of the municipal surcharge, which is incorporated into the general sales tax, from 2 to 2.5 percent, not by raising the tax but by expanding the inclusion of municipal surcharges throughout the general tax structure - The solution to the problem of street vendors is their relocation as has been discussed - Job programs must be established - The municipal government should be restructured and modernized - Incentives are needed for employer participation in the recovery of our national wealth [passage omitted]

Terrorist Violence Grows as Election Day Nears

PY0911181889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0911 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Lima, 9 Nov (EFE)—With just three days to go before the municipal elections scheduled for 12 November, terrorists have stepped up their violence, and security forces have intensified their antisubversive operations in several Peruvian regions.

Shining Path members bombed an office of the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) party in Lima last night, injuring four people, one of them seriously.

During the attack the office was set on fire. An eyewitness said that some 150 electoral cards were burned. The cards, which are the only valid document for participation in the elections, had been taken to the party office so that the voting station could be defined.

Police sources have reported at least six bombings last night in the Andean city of Ayacucho, 575 km southeast of the Lima. The sources, however, did not mention the buildings that were attacked.

On 7 November, Shining Path terrorists blew up 4 electric towers in the vicinity of Ayacucho, raising to 17 the number of towers that have been blown up by this Maoist organization in Ayacucho and in zones of Huancavelica Department in the past few days.

A Shining Path "elimination commando" murdered a national police commander on 7 November in the Lima residential district of Miraflores. The police have reported a power outage in towns of the Huaylas valley and in the mountainous region of the northern department of Ancash, following the destruction of two towers.

In one of the towns—Ranrahirca—sources said that Shining Path members set the city hall facility on fire, destroying valuable documents. In La Oroya, Junin Department, in the central Peruvian mountain range, public buildings were bombed and a car-bomb was detonated.

Reports received from Ayacucho and from other rural areas say that terrorists are stopping vehicles on highways and stripping passengers of their electoral cards, which they then destroy.

In view of this escalation of violence, the government decreed a state of emergency in the 10 provinces of the department of Lima on 7 November, placing them under military control. This is the Peruvian department with the largest population and with the largest number of voters. It has more than 6,000,000 people, and includes the port of Callao.

On 6 November, the military authorities imposed a curfew between 1000 and 0500 in the departments of Junin and Pasco in the central mountain range. The same measure has already been enforced in Ayacucho, Apurimac, and Huancavelica.

Last night, the political-military command of the Ayacucho emergency zone issued a communique enforcing strict measures that will be observed by the people during the elections.

The communique states that as of 13 November, those electoral cards that do not bear the seal, that is stamped at the voting stations and which proves that the bearer has cast his vote, will be arrested and "placed at the disposal of the courts."

It adds that if someone wants to travel,to make administrative arrangements, to obtain documents, or to perform commercial transactions, they will have to show their electoral card with the corresponding seal, under penalty of being forbidden to proceed.

During a press conference yesterday, the technical police presented 27 alleged Shining Path members, who were captured in southern Lima provinces and in Ica. They are charged with being involved in at least 40 attacks and murders of authorities, and with planning future attacks against electoral offices and candidates in the upcoming municipal elections.

Combined military and police forces yesterday raided the San Fernando School of Medicine of the Lima University of San Marcos, arresting 600 persons and seizing explosives and propaganda material.

On 6 November, during a search of the San Marcos university campus in Lima, the police seized firearms, explosives, and terrorist propaganda material.

Number of Registered Voters Reported

PY0911154489 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1300 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Electoral Registry Director Guillermo Quijada has reported the number of voters who will participate in the elections this Sunday.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] How many voters will participate in the elections on Sunday, 12 November?

[Quijada] The electoral registry includes 9,921,537 voters, who will cast their votes at 51,837 voting tables. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Interior Minister on Security for Elections

PY1111175889 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Interior Minister Agustin Mantilla has said that the government has adopted all necessary measures to guarantee the safety of voters and the security of the elections. Mantilla said the Armed Forces will provide all the necessary guarantees in the areas under the state of emergency.

Regarding the blackouts in some areas of Lima yesterday, Mantilla said he did not have enough information to confirm or deny that they had been caused by the destruction of electric towers. He said the government has ordered controls in strategic areas to manage the consequences of any power cuts.

[Begin recording] [Mantilla] The Armed Forces and the police have taken all necessary measures to guarantee the safety of all citizens everywhere in the country, so they can go to the polling places and cast their mature votes to elect new municipal and regional authorities. I think the process will be a success for Peru and democracy. I think the entire population will vote on 12 November, practicing their right and duty in defense of the country.

[Reporter] What about the emergency zones?

[Mantilla] Those areas are under the political-military command. The joint command is in charge of all decisions there. We have been notified that all adequate measures have been taken, and we hope to be successful there too.

[Reporter] What about the blackouts yesterday. Which electric towers have been attacked?

[Mantilla] We only have a partial report so far. Fortunately the electric towers that were attacked were not very important ones. We have been able to reestablish electricity in a short time and thus assure calm for the elections. [end recording]

Curfew Decreed in Ayacucho Prior to Elections

PY1111174089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1659 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Ayacucho, 11 Nov (TELAM - ANSA) In fear of subversive violence, the population of the city of Ayacucho remained in their homes when a strict curfew was decreed before the municipal elections that take place on 12 November.

Soldiers wearing ski masks patrolled the streets of Ayacucho, 500 km from Lima, in the southeastern Andean region, where the Shining Path guerrilla group has unleashed a new offensive in advance of tomorrow's municipal elections.

It is believed that the Army has engaged in armed clashes with subversive groups. Shots were heard at about 1000 (0300 GMT) at a distance from this Andean city. [passage omitted]

Strikes, Violence Reported on Election Day

PY1211212089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1909 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Huancayo (Peru), 12 Nov (EFE)—Civilian authorities in the city of Huancayo, 415 km east of Lima, have reported that 35 explosions were reported today before the opening of the balloting stations for the municipal elections. The explosions did not result in any casualties.

According to official reports, in Huaraz, the capital of Ancash Department, 409 km north of Lima, eight explosions were reported near the houses of the prefect (governor), a district mayor, and an Agriculture Ministry official, as well as near four shops and warehouses of a state-owned enterprise.

In Huancayo, the capital of Junin Department, the house of a candidate, several shops, some government offices, and schools have been bombed, according to the local prefecture.

Saturnino Palomino Tunqui, 25, was injured while he was standing in a line in front of one of the five schools where votes are being cast in Huancayo. The bullet was the same caliber as those used by the Army.

The terrorist Shining Path has called an "armed strike" from 11 November until 13 November in Junin, Ayacucho, Pasco, and Huanuco Departments.

The "armed strike" today caused serious delays in the bus service, as Peruvians go to elect about 13,700 local, provincial, and district officials, including mayors and council members.

In the cities of Huancayo and Huaraz, the Armed Forces, which along with the national police have been mobilized nationwide to protect the elections, were in charge of bus service. On 11 November, the Shining Path dynamited a bus near the cities of Huancayo and Huaraz after the passengers were forced to disembark.

Deadline for Voting Extended

PY1211213689 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 2045 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] National Electoral Court President Carlos Castaneda Lafontaine has confirmed that the time for voting has been extended until 1700 [2200 GMT] today and that there will be a balloting station for pedestrians [mesa de transeuntes] in Ayacucho, as proposed by President Alan Garcia Perez.

[Begin Castaneda recording] Given the enthusiasm with which the Peruvians are casting their votes, and in order to prevent any difficulties, we at the electoral court have agreed to extend the voting until 1700; citizens who have not yet voted can vote until 1700 this afternoon.

I also want to report that the electoral court has agreed that the radio stations will not make any projections of the vote count before that time; that is, 1700 this afternoon.

I am sure that the entire election will be held normally, that there will not be any difficulties, and that everyone will be able to cast their votes freely.

Thank you very much. [end recording]

Belmont Apparent Winner in Lima Mayoral Race

PY1311022289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0025 GMT 13 Nov 89

[By Francisco Figueroa]

[Excerpt] Lima, 12 Nov (EFE)—Ricardo Belmont, a television celebrity who jumped to the political arena, today comfortably displaced the traditional parties as two projections indicated that he had easily won Lima's mayoralty.

According to the projections made by two private television stations, Belmont, 44, received the votes of 45 to 50 percent of Lima's electorate, which is said to represent about one-third of the nation's total votes.

Belmont's victory was quickly admitted by his chief rival, the center-rightist Juan Inchaustegui, 51, who was the FREDEMO [Democratic Front] candidate, and who, according to the projections, received between 25 and 26 percent of the votes.

FREDEMO's chief leader, novelist Mario Vargas Llosa, a presidential candidate, personally congratulated Belmont at his "headquarters" and attributed Belmont's victory to the independent votes, which account for more than one-fourth of the electorate.

Two parallel polls indicated that 51.7 to 55 percent of the voters would vote for Vargas Llosa in the April 1990 elections.

Belmont defeated both the governing party and the United Left (IU), a coalition of socialists and communists who constitute the main opposition in the Peruvian Congress. The IU had nominated sociologist Henry Pease, 44, who will also run for president in the April 1990 elections.

Lima's mayoral candidate from the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA), former Education Minister Mercedes Cabanillas, 41, went to Belmont's electoral headquarters at a downtown hotel in Lima to congratulate Belmont on his victory.

Despite the lack of official results, which will only gradually become available as of tomorrow, the projections gave between 11.4 and 14.7 percent of the votes to Pease, and about (?10 percent) of the votes to Mercedes Cabanillas.

Belmont is the largest shareholder of two radio stations and one television station, and he never before participated in politics.

Belmont became known through popular television programs and by sponsoring television campaigns for disabled children.

Married, with three children, Belmont is a sportsman who does not like formalities, speaks the ordinary people's language, and has a populist inclination without a clear-cut ideology. He does admit his admiration for the political platform championed by Vargas Llosa. [passage omitted]

FREDEMO Claims Nationwide Victory

PY1311032289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0147 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] Lima, 12 Nov (EFE)—Leaders of the Democratic Front (FREDEMO), which is sponsoring the candidacy of writer Mario Vargas Llosa for the 1990 presidential elections, today consider that they have achieved a nationwide victory in the municipal elections.

Fernando Belaunde Terry, a former president of the republic, has said: "I celebrate the nationwide victory achieved by the FREDEMO, which is a precursor of a greater victory at the ballot boxes on 8 April 1990 (in the presidential elections), with Vargas Llosa leading."

Belaunde also greeted the apparent victory in the municipal elections of independent Ricardo Belmont Casinelli. Radio and television projections indicate him as Lima's new mayor for the 1990- 1993 period.

Belaunde added that Belmont's victory confirms the expectations of the formulas for democratic unity. He said that, with the independent candidate, the country "has gained a new leader with a great future."

Belmont, 44, a television personality well-known for his activities as announcer and anchorman of social programs, has become Lima's mayor, according to unofficial projections, with 50 percent of the electorate, calculated at 3.5 million.

Vargas Llosa commented on the victory of Belmont, who is a good friend of his, and said that the FREDEMO candidates "had achieved a nationwide victory."

The writer said he was pleased about the victories achieved by the FREDEMO candidates in typical strongholds of the ruling party and of the Communist front, United Left [IU]. These include the provinces of Piura and Chiclayo on the coast; Puno, Huaraz, and Huancayo in the central mountainous area; and Lima districts.

Vargas Llosa said that the victories achieved by his fellow party members represent the "citizens' protest" against the economic and social policy of Peruvian President Alan Garcia, and "a defeat" for the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) and for communism, represented by the IU.

Unofficial polls released today by television indicate that Vargas Llosa will win the 1990 presidential elections with 51 to 55 percent of the total votes.

Lima television reports indicate that, according to projections, the IU candidates have won in the Andean provinces of Ayacucho and Huancavelica, while an independent candidate has won in Arequipa, Peru's second largest city.

In Ayacucho, 576 km southeast of Lima, a provincial electoral court source has reported that more than 33 percent of the ballots were null or blank, according to an official count of 3,000 voters.

Concerning the null votes, the source added that on most of them the voters wrote criticism of the government and obscene words and drawings, and including the hammer and sickle, the symbols of the terrorist Shining Path group.

Prime Minister Larco Cox Addresses Congress

PY1011181689 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Address to Congress by Peruvian Prime Minister Guillermo Larco Cox—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Mr President, Messrs Representatives:

I return to this honorable Congress in my capacity as president of the Council of Ministers to comply with a constitutional mandate. I will outline the government's general policy and the guidelines of the work to be undertaken in the next few months.

I am driven by a firm devotion to democracy, a devotion that has inspired my political activities and the performance of my duties as a lawmaker and as a member of the executive branch. Now I have assumed the responsibility of meeting the challenges of the last stage of an administration.

This is not an easy stage, especially under the circumstances prevailing in our country. Such circumstances have not contributed to a widespread consensus, because political leaders are engaged in the electoral contest and in debate.

Our commitment to Peru, however, compels us to continue with this effort, so that the transfer of power may consolidate our democracy.

Under similar circumstances, my predecessor, the honorable teacher Luis Alberto Sanchez, delivered his message to Congress under the restraint of the short period before the end of this administration, under the restraint of the violence triggered by drug trafficking and subversion, under the restraint of the disorder caused by corruption in the private and public sectors, and under the restraint of the natural tension caused by a free electoral contest.

Despite all this, the government of Alan Garcia will lead an orderly transfer of power. A major factor for ensuring this process will be the continued pursuit of the programs and priority goals of this government.

Despite the fact that the ambitions and objectives of this final stage focus on the political options for the next administration, we who are in the government cannot and should not forget that the constitutional term will end on 28 July 1990. Until that time we will govern, faithful to our commitment to those who entrusted us with a mission through the ballot slips, which are the foundation of the people's sovereignty.

Now more than ever, the government will base its action on the values of democracy. This means the commitment of those who govern not only to their voters, but to the nation as a whole. It also means that careful and specific action will be taken in connection with the serious problems that the Peruvian society and state are now confronting.

In this regard, our foremost goal will be to guarantee the transfer of power, thus safeguarding the Peruvian people's right to choose freely and democratically those who will govern them. Faithful to our democratic tenets, we have assumed this mandate, inspired by the thought and the example of Victor Raul Haya de la Torre. During a constituent assembly that he presided over with talent and tolerance, Haya de la Torre expanded the right to vote to illiterate people and to youths above 18. He said that the democratic transfer of power consolidates the process of democracy, that there can be changes in the ideology of governments, and that the transfer of power must be guaranteed with civic honesty.

Our main responsibility as members of the government is, therefore, to guarantee the thorough and clear completion of the electoral process and to hand over power to those who are elected by the Peruvian people to run the nation for the next 5 years.

This calls for increased efforts to put us on the course toward overcoming the economic crisis and to permit us to continue firmly with the struggle against terrorism.

This speech will deal mainly with relevant issues of our own situation. We are aware that there are many factors that affect our fellow countrymen's daily lives. Yet none of those factors can be as decisive as the priority attached to the guarantees for the upcoming elections.

Consequently, I would like to place particular emphasis on some issues that I believe deserve priority consideration, because they are now vital for all Peruvians. These issues are the consolidation of Peruvian democracy; the situation of subversive violence; the provisions for efficently fighting subversion; the need for an attitude toward subversion that should commit not only the state but all social, political, and economic sectors of the country; the basic guidelines of the economic policy; the adoption of measures for preserving the living standards of the poor; and the guidelines of our foreign policy.

At a time of turmoil caused by subversive violence and by a complex and difficult economic situation, the political class and the people should not fail to realize that, despite the crisis, our democracy has not changed its course. It has not collapsed, but—on the contrary—it has grown stronger and firmer. Democratic institutions are operating, and political parties are exercising their rights within the framework of a state of law, which has allowed the opposition to play a critical, supervisory role.

Individual liberties and political, social, and union rights are being exercised with no restraint whatsoever. Despite the terrorist aggression, the state has at no time adopted a policy of violating human rights. Whenever abuses have been committed, the appropriate organs have taken action to punish them.

The crisis has not curtailed freedom of information, expression, and association.

This was our democratic answer.

Like the government of Fernando Belaunde, APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] does not fear subversion. We are sure that the next government will uphold democracy in the face of the insanity of terrorism. [passage omitted]

The first regional election ever will be held in a few weeks. To this end, we have adopted appropriate measures that will guarantee the cleanliness of the elections. We have assumed the responsibility of implementing these major transformations in an organic manner and in coordination with the municipal elections.

Our effort has been driven by our democratic convictions and by our recognition of the aspirations of the unheeded sectors of Peru.

I should, however, mention the obstacles that we have to overcome to achieve those objectives.

Peru has serious problems that are rooted in our history. Today the country is faced with the great challenge posed by the struggle against subversion, drug trafficking, and extreme poverty. The future of our now dubious national identity and the future of Peruvian democracy, peace, and progress depend on the results of this struggle.

Subversion, which murders defenseless municipal authorities and candidates for city hall posts, has attempted to harm the electoral process by resorting to violence, an instrument that goes against history. In their misguided conception, subversives have sought to reach power by using violence, because they believe that their violence is creative. They have not realized that violence is death. By resorting to violence, they have caused a confrontation in which Peruvians have risen against Peruvians, workers against workers, peasants against peasants, and the state against society. This is the totalitarian logic of Pol Pot's genocide, which frightened the world in Cambodia.

A few months ago in this place I mentioned the APRA victims. Today, in light of the events that have happened since, I pay respectful tribute to the sacrifice of pain and blood that all political sectors have paid, to the Popular Action victims, to the victims of the Christian Popular Party, of the Socialist Accord, of the United Left, and obviously of the APRA.

I also pay tribute to the victims who were members of the military and police, to the leaders and civilians, Peruvians and foreigners, who died while performing their duty to improve the Peruvian destiny. [passage omitted]

Mr President, just as the government is expected to give new answers to the unprecedented challenges affecting the elections and the transfer of power, I feel that I should also call upon all parties and political factions to adopt a new attitude, turning their electoral campaigns into an honorable and fair contest.

Yet the change should not concentrate only on this point. The most important factor is that this contest should turn into a collective mobilization in favor of democracy and against violence, whatever its origin or method.

I hope, sir, that both the leaders and the rank-and-file will understand that there is one point behind which the government and the parties have united.

The Cabinet that I preside over will take immediate action, based on the initiatives that I will put forward and on the proposals that have already been outlined by some leaders.

I also call upon the other branches of government to adjust their procedures and to act honorably, generously, and efficiently, as is necessary at this time.

I especially call upon the media, so that through the use of the freedom of expression that is guaranteed by democracy, they may promote an atmosphere of security, helping to give shape to the most valuable foundations of our democracy.

First and foremost, however, I call upon all Peruvians to participate, turning their votes into guns for fighting subversion, turning their exercise of democracy into the rejection of murderous violence, and turning their devotion to this cause into the daily reiteration of a commitment to a nation built upon a consensus around democracy.

Only in this way, by fully exercising our individual and collective responsibilities, will we guarantee the total preservation of our rights. The APRA government of which I am a member will thus comply with the people's mandate to guarantee the continuity of democracy.

At this time, which is marked by imminent municipal, regional, and national elections, it is easy to see where subversion will try to concentrate its action. Through the channels used by subversion, the nation has learned that subversion seeks to hinder the electoral process.

Despite this, however, the elections will be held as a democratic event created by our own people. At the same time we know that both the Shining Path and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA] will attempt to boycott the elections in some towns. They will attempt to intimidate and to murder candidates, and they will attempt to seize electoral cards and attack party and national electoral court facilities.

In fact, subversive actions in the past few months have concentrated on cowardly attempts against the lives of some mayors and municipal candidates. They have killed more than 45 mayors and several candidates for city hall posts, all of them true martyrs of democracy.

In view of this situation, the government has the obligation of giving guarantees for the normal development of the elections. With the moral power of its democratic convictions and with the power of the law, the government will give such guarantees.

To this end, the Joint Armed Forces Command has designed a security plan, which both the Armed Forces and the police are implementing to guarantee the normalcy of the elections, thus complying with the constitutional mandate.

Some adjustment measures have been adopted in the fight against subversion in order to respond properly to the security needs of the elections.

Specific plans have been implemented to mobilize a larger number of troops, especially for protecting the people performing administrative duties and for safeguarding party and electoral offices and other facilities.

Mobile reserves have been created in order to respond rapidly and efficiently to any emergency. To this end, air transportation, basically helicopters, will be used to deploy the troops faster and with more security, particularly in the emergency zones and in large cities.

Specific actions have been ordered—and they are being undertaken—to guarantee the free exercise of the right to vote, particularly in the towns where mayors were murdered or where candidates were the target of attacks.

In addition to the protection of people and facilities, the measures include consultations with the electoral authorities to establish electoral mechanisms that will prevent subversives from undertaking retaliatory action after the elections.

Seeking to guarantee political freedoms in the emergency zones—despite the constitutional restrictions of the states of emergency—the government has ordered the commanders of the emergency zones to be as flexible as possible in restricting constitutional guarantees and to take into account the requirements of electoral campaigns.

The national police are in charge of protecting national electoral court members, voting table members, candidates, and party leaders.

Despite these provisions, the task has been hampered by the large number of candidates throughout the country and by the fact that it is impossible to give personal, direct protection to each candidate.

A series of measures, however, has been adopted, to directly or indirectly provide for a security level that is consistent with our available resources.

With the objective of outlining the criteria of this national convergence for democracy, I call upon all democratic political sectors to create a multiparty democratic coordinating board that will operate at the level of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. This board will outline the security measures for protecting people and for preserving facilities, so that the elections may be held without subversive or terrorist sabotage.

At the same time, I urge all mass media, the press, the radio, and the television to join the political parties, the church, and the National Electoral Court to design and implement a national campaign for democracy, disseminating security criteria and rules that all people should observe. The most important objective of this campaign should be to awaken the people's conscience and to promote the participation of the masses. [passage omitted]

Mr President,I would like to mention Peruvian foreign relations, which are part of my own portfolio.

Our relations with Latin America are an important, priority area both from a bilateral viewpoint and from the viewpoint of multilateral mechanisms. However, Peruvian foreign policy does not end there.

Peru has enriched its relations with Europe, with the United States, Japan, and the countries of Southeast Asia. I believe that there is still considerable room for promoting those ties.

We have developed growing and efficient cooperative ties with Europe, both with individual countries and with the EEC, with which we are engaged in a considerable number of cooperative projects. Cooperation with Europe has recently shifted toward economic promotion, identifying Peruvian investment projects and European investors.

I would like to specifically mention the business missions, which we have sent to Spain, to the northern European countries, and to the Pacific basin countries. In the next few weeks, Peru will become a full member of the Pacific basin economic conference, the coordinating organ of Pacific basin countries.

Regarding our relations with major blocs, I should also say that we have opened new possibilities for promoting trade with Eastern Europe on the basis of counterbalanced trade and of the payment of debts with products. The liberalization of the economy in those countries offers better prospects for our products, in addition to very fluid commercial relations in some sectors.

In the international arena, we have let our voice be heard through initiatives which have gained ground. I will mention only two of them: the debt and its social cost. Today we see that the irreverence of the past has turned into something real. The debt cannot be paid on the terms on which it has been contracted; debtors and creditors share the responsibility. The development of a nation cannot be postponed to repay the debt, and the debt issue cannot be isolated from the issue of international trade. The solution to the foreign debt problem must be essentially political in nature.

All these concepts are now universally accepted. The so-called Brady Plan has implicitly recognized them, despite the fact that—in our opinion—the plan is insufficient, considering the size of the problem.

Another initiative of President Alan Garcia, which has now turned into something real, is the creation of a presidential group to meditate on the international economic crisis and on development. This group was created by 15 countries during the last nonaligned meeting in Belgrade. The presidents of these countries will meet at the end of 1990 to analyze the crisis and to propose solutions.

We have no doubt that, at the French president's initiative to reestablish the North-South dialogue, the meditation group that is being created will be the interlocutor par excellence of the group of seven industrialized nations. Mr President, a vacuum in multilateral relations has thus been filled.

In this brief summary of our foreign policy, I would like to mention the good level and the fluency of our foreign relations, which have neither fissures nor cracks. The path of dialogue and understanding remains open. This is a national asset which the administration that will succeed us should preserve and enrich. [passage omitted]

Police Break Up Sur Chico Terrorist Cell

PY0911130089 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Excerpt] The police have dismantled a 27-member terrorist gang that operated in Sur Chico and that was planning to murder candidates for city hall posts, blow up high-tension towers, and attack police stations.

The terrorists, five of whom were identified as Shining Path leaders, were introduced to journalists by Technical Police Director Lieutenant General Fernando Reyes Roca.

Reyes Roca explained that the gang, which had been operating since 1987, is responsible for the murder of policemen and candidates for city hall posts in the past few weeks. [passage omitted]

The subversives were arrested in Canete, Yauyos, Chincha, Ica, Palpa, and Nazca. The police also seized a large amount of subversive propaganda, police uniforms, Shining Path flags, pieces of red cloth, bombs, fuses, and a large quantity of dynamite. [passage omitted]

Police Believe Abimael Guzman Living Abroad

PY1211203289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0155 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Lima, 11 Nov (EFE)—According to the Lima media, Peruvian police revealed today for the first time that Abimael Guzman Reynoso, the founding leader of the Shining Path terrorist group, is living abroad.

Guzman disappeared in 1979, 1 year before the Maoist Shining Path started its armed fight in Peru. Since then the Shining Path has killed at least 15,000 people in the country and caused losses amounting to more than $12 billion.

Police officers who are investigating the weekly EL DIARIO, which is believed to be in charge of the Shining Path propaganda sector, have told EL COMERCIO reporters that Abimael Guzman—former anthropology professor at the Huamanga University in Ayacucho Province, where the Shining Path was allegedly created—is probably not living in Peru. Guzman, alias "Camarada Gonzalo," is the Peruvian citizen most sought by the military intelligence and by the police.

The Peruvian Government offers a large reward to anyone who can report on Guzman's whereabouts. The reward is said to be as large as the one paid to the man who revealed the hideout of Osman Morote, Shining Path's second-in-command and its military chief. Morote was arrested in June 1988 and sentenced to 20 years in jail for subversive activities.

The workshop where EL DIARIO was printed was raided by agents of the Antiterrorist Directorate (Dircote) 9 days ago. During the raid, the agents arrested some 10 people, including EL DIARIO journalists, administrative personnel, and printers.

Quoting Dircote sources, EL COMERCIO has reported that the weekly was used to plan and coordinate subversive activities. During the raid, Dircote agents found original documents on alleged Shining Path congresses and meetings.

The Dircote sources told EL COMERCIO that these documents were prepared at EL DIARIO and that, apparently, the weekly directed the Shining Path political apparatus.

In the last few weeks, the Shining Path carried out a wave of terrorist violence aimed at frustrating the municipal elections, which will be held nationwide tomorrow.

In this last series of attacks, the Shining Path murdered at least 450 people, including candidates for mayor, military men, police, and civilians. In addition, the terrorists destroyed high-tension towers, causing blackouts in many important towns in the interior of the country, as well as in Lima.

The Shining Path also staged "armed strikes," in which they threaten to kill those who do not join the strikes. These armed strikes are being staged in three important Andean provinces, in two jungle provinces, and in a very important part of Lima. The strikes started on 10 November and will end on 13 November, after the elections.

Military Thwarts Terrorist Attack Against Truck

PY1211223689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0242 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Lima, 11 Nov (EFE)—The National Police have reported that three persons, including an alleged terrorist, were killed today when Peruvian soldiers thwarted an attack against a truck loaded with food on the southern Pan-American Highway, 99 km south of Lima.

The soldiers, who were patrolling the so-called Asia sector, noticed that some hooded men were trying to seize a truck.

A shootout ensued between the hooded men and the soldiers. The truck driver, a passerby, and Carlos Funez Ponce—who, according to police records, belongs to the terrorist Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA)—were killed, according to the police source.

Hidden inside Funez' clothes was MRTA propaganda against the municipal elections scheduled for 12 November. The MRTA, along with the Maoist Shining Path, is trying to thwart the elections with a series of terrorist actions.

MRTA groups often hijack trucks in order to deliver food to the shantytowns, where extremely poor people are living, the police commented.

Chamber of Deputies President Suffers Stroke

PY1111173089 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Fernando Leon de Vivero, president of the Chamber of Deputies, has suffered a stroke. It is possible, though, that he might recover, according to President Alan Garcia, who visited him at the hospital.

President Garcia, after a 2-hour visit to the hospital, explained that Leon de Vivero had a stroke, but added that according to the medical report he could recover when the edema is reabsorbed. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Sanguinetti on Nicaraguan Solution, Foreign Debt

PY1011022089 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 4 Nov 89 p 9

[Text] President Julio Maria Sanguinetti said yesterday that Uruguay is negotiating a solution to the Nicaraguan conflict. Sanguinetti said that in the last few hours he had made contacts within the framework of what he described as a "personal" initiative.

In a statement to the "In Perspective" program carried by "Government House Radio" [Emisora del Palacio], Sanguinetti said that he is concerned about the lifting of the cease-fire announced by the Nicaraguan Government and the resumption of "contra" operations.

Sanguinetti also mentioned the sincerity with which the Latin American presidents discussed the foreign debt issue with U.S. President George Bush. But Sanguinetti warned that the U.S. Government only has "a certain amount of power" over the creditor banking sector. He added that the U.S. President "is not all-powerful."

Sanguinetti said that "the lifting of the cease-fire in Nicaragua is a step backward in a peace process that has only just now experienced progress. It is also a step backward because the 'contras' have resumed military operations during the election campaign. Undoubtedly, neither of these moves has contributed to the pacification process that should accompany an election."

Sanguinetti added: "I had a chance to talk to President Ortega and to the Nicaraguan opposition candidates during the Costa Rica summit. The opposition candidates are determined to hold elections. They believe that they are overwhelmed by problems and disadvantages, but they also believe that the chance to register to vote is important and that voting itself is important. I too believe that the fact that people can vote in Nicaragua is extraordinarily significant. I am convinced that in situations of this nature, people can achieve democracy only by voting. When faced with a de facto regime, Uruguay's experience has been to vote our way out of the situation. This is the only way to democratize a country. Therefore, this is the main issue.

Sanguinetti pointed out that "we are moving along these lines. We have had some experience in this; the Contadora Group worked on this issue and today the Group of Eight has inherited their experience. We are doing all this on a personal basis. We have undertaken many negotiations to achieve peace. It is true that this is a step backward. But there have been others. This is no time to give up or to believe everything is lost. No, I do not think so. I believe that there is enough room to find a solution."

President Sanguinetti did not specify what kind of negotiations had been made but he did say that in the last few hours "we have had many contacts and we are working on this issue."

Sanguinetti also discussed the negotiations that the different Latin American presidents held with U.S. President George Bush over the foreign debt issue during the Costa Rica summit.

In this regard, Sanguinetti said: "We politicians always believe in dialogue. Democratic politicians naturally believe in political solutions, and these are based on negotiations. I believe we had a frank and cordial dialogue. Both President Bush and Canadian Prime Minister Mulroney, who is an important international personality (particularly now that Canada has joined the OAS), must have been able to gather important information on these issues. Before them Presidents Cristiani and Ortega discussed Central American problems.

Sanguinetti went on to say that "they respectfully discussed several issues, but with some different viewpoints. The talks are important to an understanding of the problem, which from a distance sometimes appears as black versus white, or as simple as the 'good guys and the bad guys.'"

He added that "the same thing happened with the foreign debt issue. We all gave our points of view by exchanging opinions and the U.S. President was able to understand various aspects of the problem. The truth is that he was very interested and he was able to hear different points of view."

Sanguinetti also said that "we also became aware of the limits of the U.S. Government in this area as explained by President Bush."

He explained that "the creditors are the private banks. The power of the U.S. Government over the private banks is relative. The U.S. Government has its own foreign debt, which is very large and can have great influence. This means that the U.S. Government as a public power does not have the right to make impositions on the banks, which, needless to say, are very strong and powerful. It should also be remembered that the U.S. Government has a very large commercial and financial deficit. The government's actions are restricted by that deficit."

According to Sanguinetti, a greater knowledge of this issue and of the restrictions on the U.S. Government "make us realize that everything is relative in the world. Things are not black or white. No one can do everything, but no one is insignificant either. Everything has a relative value; it has to be rationalized and evaluated. We should avoid falling into the intellectual traps we tend to fall into when we simplify events. We think that the U.S. President 'can do everything,' but the fact is that he cannot."

Economy Minister To Discuss Debt in Japan

PY0911210589 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0830 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Economy and Finance Minister Ricardo Zerbino has said that [words indistinct] we are trying to conclude our debt negotiations. Minister Zerbino departed a few hours ago for Nagoya, Japan, where he will attend an Eximbank symposium that seeks to strengthen [words indistinct] between Japan and Latin America in economic and financial matters. Zerbino said that the bank [words indistinct] everything possible with Eximbank operations and in other areas through cofinancing other loans. However, he said nothing concrete has been arranged so far. Isidore Hodara, the Foreign Trade Department director general, travelled with the minister. They will be received in Japan by Uruguayan Ambassador (Julio del Carrill), who is the representative of [words indistinct]. This is what Zerbino said about the trip.

[Begin recording] [Zerbino] [passage omitted] Other Latin American ministers will attend, including the Mexican minister [not further identified], Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo, and the representative of [passage indistinct][end recording]

Army Chief on Elections, Future Defense Minister

PY0911231989 Montevideo LA HORA POPULAR in Spanish 28 Oct 89 p 9

[Text] Army Commander Lieutenant General Carlos Berois has stated that a month before the elections, members of the Armed Forces are experiencing the same expectations as any other citizen, although there is no concern over who the next president of the nation will be or the party that will be in power. He added that the military remains calm in this respect.

Berois made important remarks during the ceremony to mark the 102d anniversary of the Fire Department. Present at the ceremony were Interior Minister Flavio Rafael Buscasso, the commanders in chief of the Navy and the Air Force, and some well-known Pacheco-faction politicians.

Asked whether the next defense minister should be a civilian or from the military, Berois said that this must be decided by the new president and that he should not give his opinion on the subject. He refused to say which would be better. In an interview that he granted at the end of the ceremony at the Fire Department Headquarters, the Army commander made these comments:

[Berois] They are absolutely groundless (referring to rumors of uneasiness within the Army) because the Army is subordinate, as it is supposed to be, to Army authorities, who in turn take their orders from the ministry, and so on.

[Question] Is there some sort of uneasiness or resentment among some of the Armed Forces?

[Berois] Absolutely not. This is not what is happening. I would say that it is common in any pre-electoral period, but it cannot be attributed to an internal conflict. Regarding the authors of a recently published document [not further identified], who do not belong to the Army, we have the full force of a court of honor that can deal with this matter.

[Question] Does the Army have any preference for a party or faction to win the elections?

[Berois] Of course, as citizens we can all imagine what may happen, not referring to anyone in particular, but to all candidates. The Army at this moment, like everyone, is trying to fulfill its established guidelines regarding administrative aspects. Regarding military salaries, I have mentioned on other occasions the current deficit which is somehow affecting the expected role of the Army.

[Question] Is it possible to quickly improve these salaries?

[Berois] I do not think so. According to current constitutional rules, which are very clear, it is impossible at this moment to implement salary increases to all the Armed Forces.

[Question] As a military officer, who do you think should be the next Defense Minister?

[Answer] That decision must be made by the person who will choose him, the person who will be the best for the Armed Forces. There is no unanimous opinion on this.

Sports Exchange Agreement Signed With USSR

PY1011010489 Montevideo LA HORA POPULAR in Spanish 2 Nov 89 p 35

[By F.B.]

[Text] An agreement was signed on Wednesday at the National Physical Education Commission in the presence of Soviet authorities Nikolay Malychev (chief of the Soviet International Department of the State Committee for Physical Education and Sports) and Mikhail Kucherov (responsible for that organization in South America) [names and titles as published]. The agreement establishes that a bilateral exchange in sports activities will take place between the Soviet Union and Uruguay next year.

Malychev and Kutcherov told us that "the agreement includes two basic parts: the exchange of technicians, experts, coaches, and sports reporters, and teams of mutual interest. A soccer team will be sent to compete with Uruguayan teams, as will a team of gymnasts, as happened this year. Gymnastics is a well-developed discipline in the Soviet Union, while Uruguay is known throughout the world for its good soccer; this is why we use the phrase teams of mutual interest."

This exchange is not limited just to Soviet sportsmen and professionals coming to Uruguay. There is also "the second part of the project, which includes sending Uruguayans to the Soviet Union. Next year nine professionals will be sent to the Soviet Union, while nine Soviets will come to Uruguay. These athletes will be trained in different olympic disciplines."

After signing this sports agreement, the Soviet officials noted the fact that the agreement signed with Uruguay "is not due to private interests, but to support countries that need it. Our relations with Uruguay are very stable and increasingly fruitful in the sports sector, as compared to the other American countries. We must also mention the Uruguayan Olympic Committee and the National Physical Education Commission, organizations with which we maintain excellent ties. We must not forget either that sports can serve as an ambassador of peace serving to maintain friendly relations among nations."

Export Increase Results in Trade Balance Surplus

PY0911230089 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 24 Oct 89 p 13

[Summary] The Bank of the Republic has reported that the accumulated January-September trade balance surplus amounts to $227,643,000, which resulted from a 12.8 percent increase in exports over same period last year.